

Sudan-Kenya row surfaces

KHARTOUM (R) — Sudan said Saturday it had ordered two Kenyan diplomats to leave within 48 hours after two of its own diplomats were expelled from Nairobi. Khartoum radio said the Kenyans were the second and third ranking officers in the embassy. It did not give their names and there was no immediate comment from the embassy. The radio said the two Sudanese were expelled after a senior Sudanese diplomat in Nairobi gave a news conference at which he said a Kenyan-held border area belonged to Sudan. Sudan says it has sovereignty over the area under an 1914 agreement. Ali Youssef, the head of the Sudanese mission, told Reuters in Nairobi that the Kenyan Foreign Ministry summoned him and embassy counsellor Nasser Basheer and asked them to leave immediately. Youssef said they were accused of conduct incompatible with their status, a diplomatic phrase for spying.

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Shevardnadze to discuss Mideast peace with Baker

MOSCOW (R) — Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze said Saturday he planned to discuss the Middle East with U.S. Secretary of State James Baker at their first formal discussions next week in Vienna.

Shevardnadze, who recently returned from a 10-day Middle East tour, said there were many ways for the superpowers to cooperate in bringing about a peace settlement in the region. "I plan in part to share with the U.S. secretary of state impressions from my trip to the Middle East," he said in an interview with the Soviet news agency TASS.

"There is vast room for cooperation on problems of a Middle East settlement between the USSR and the United States as permanent members of the U.N. Security Council," he said.

During his five-state tour of the Middle East last month, Shevardnadze said the United Nations Security Council should start preparing an international peace conference.

Israel opposes such a conference, and Washington has been mostly non-committal.

Shevardnadze told TASS he had no strict agenda for his meeting with Baker, which is scheduled for Tuesday in Vienna where both men will attend the start of the Conventional Forces in Europe (CFE) talks.

"The Americans describe it as a get-acquainted meeting. Well, we are ready to agree with such

an approach," TASS quoted Shevardnadze as saying. "The widest range of issues of mutual interest can be discussed."

The Soviet foreign minister said he had valued his "good businesslike contacts" with former Secretary of State George Shultz during the Reagan administration and said he hoped he would develop a similar "common language" with Baker.

But Baker and President George Bush, who took office in January, have insisted on a go-slow policy and an extensive review of East-West policy before new proposals are aired. U.S. officials say Baker is unlikely to explode any diplomatic bombshells in the Austrian capital.

On the Middle East, Moscow's bid to play a role in peace mediation is likely to be a key topic in talks on Tuesday at the U.S. embassy.

Shevardnadze recently made a Middle East tour in which he pressed for an international peace conference of the five permanent U.N. Security Council members.

The United States is cool to an expanded Soviet role, insisting Moscow could not serve as an effective mediator unless it restored diplomatic relations with Israel and pressed the Arabs more forcefully to show "moderation."

Moscow's support for Cuba and Nicaragua and U.S. diplomatic pressure against Managua will be discussed.



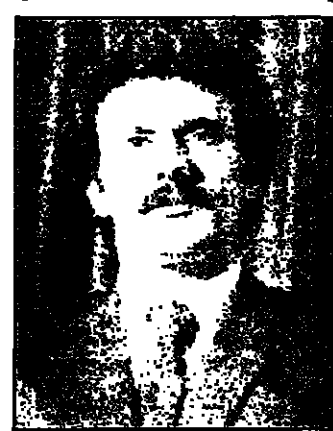
H.M. King Hussein



Saddam Hussein



Hosni Mubarak



Ali Abdullah Saleh

King briefs ACC leaders on Tokyo talks

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein Saturday telephoned the presidents of Iraq, Egypt and North Yemen to consult with them on a number of issues of concern to the Arab Cooperation Council (ACC), the Jordan News Agency, Petra, said.

King Hussein briefed President Saddam Hussein of Iraq,

Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak and North Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh on the outcome of his talks with world leaders in Tokyo during his stay there last week to attend the funeral of Emperor Hirohito.

EC welcomes ACC

The European Community (EC) has welcomed the creation

last month of the ACC.

"The community and its member states welcome the establishment of the Arab Cooperation Council, by Egypt, Iraq, Jordan and the Yemen Arab Republic," said a statement released here Saturday.

"They trust that process of economic integration thus initi-

ated and which is open to other Arab countries, will encourage the social and economic development in the Middle East as well as peace in the region," it said.

"In this regard, the community could envisage complementing this effort of regional integration by cooperation on matters of mutual interest."

Jordan celebrates Al Israa Wal Mi'raj

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan, along with Arab and Islamic countries, Sunday celebrates Al Israa Wal Mi'raj feast.

On the occasion, the Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs organised a religious ceremony at Al Hussein mosque downtown Amman attended by religious leaders and worshippers.

Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Abdul Aziz Al Khayyat delivered a speech underlining the meaning of the great religious occasion.

Other speakers included the Kingdom's mufti who called on Muslims to unify their ranks and serve the cause of Islam.

Religious ceremonies were also held in other parts of the Kingdom on the eve of the holy occasion.

His Majesty King Hussein received cables of good wishes that came from the prime minister, the speaker of the Upper House of Parliament, the chief Islamic justice, and heads of public and private organisations and key public figures.

Sunday is to be observed as public holiday. All government departments and public institutions will remain closed.

Also on the occasion of Al Israa Wal Mi'raj feast all liquor stores, nightclubs and bars will remain closed until Monday morning.

PLO rejects unilateral end to attacks from Lebanon

TUNIS (Agencies) — The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Saturday rejected a unilateral halt to resistance operations in South Lebanon and said it wanted a comprehensive peace rather than temporary truce with Israel.

Responding to U.S. criticism of its raids from Lebanon, the PLO said it was astonished that Washington concentrated on its resistance role when Israel was bombing villages and refugee camps in Lebanon.

U.S. State Department spokesman Charles Redman said Friday that recent PLO attempts to infiltrate Israel from Lebanon raised questions about its commitment to renounce terrorism.

A PLO statement repeated that Israel, through international mediators, was trying to revive a truce which Washington arranged in South Lebanon in 1981. Israel has denied any such negotiations.

It asked how Washington could persuade the PLO to accept a ceasefire unless Israel promised to stop its attacks, and its occupation of South Lebanon, lift a naval blockade and halt what it called acts of piracy against Lebanese and Palestinian ships.

"If there is a sincere will and intention to reach the same agreement which was in force from 1981 to 1982, then there are conditions attached to this, as we have told the Israeli leadership through international

mediators," the statement said. "The PLO, which has launched an initiative to bring about a just peace in the region, is not striving for a temporary truce but that there should be a lasting, comprehensive and just peace at the same time," it added.

It said Israel was trying to make the United States confuse terrorism and legitimate self-defence.

Israel has described infiltration attempts by the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP) as terrorism which should prompt the United States to break off its new dialogue with the PLO.

(Continued on page 2)

Waldegrave tours Gaza Strip, says occupation must end

OCCUPIED GAZA (Agencies) — British Foreign Office Minister William Waldegrave toured a Gaza Strip refugee camp Saturday and said what he saw strengthened his belief that Israel's military occupation must end.

"Coming here, even more than to the West Bank, reinforces the impression of utter impossibility of continuing this military occupation," Waldegrave said after briefly visiting Jabalya camp, the most populated area under Israeli occupation.

Jabalya, with 55,000 residents, is where the first clashes erupted in the nearly 15-month-old Palestinian uprising. Confrontations take place almost daily.

Newsman were prevented from accompanying Waldegrave by the army, whose presence was highly visible in the Gaza Strip. An army spokesman told journalists the presence of cameramen would spark demonstrations.

Waldegrave's predecessor, David Mellor, angered Israel when he visited Jabalya last year and berated an Israeli colonel whose men dispersed a demonstration in sight of television cameras.

There were no incidents during the visit by Waldegrave who later showed reporters at U.N. offices rubber-coated steel pellets given to him by camp residents. Israeli troops fire them at demonstra-

tors. "I'm told they are fired in clusters, in a shower," Waldegrave said. "They are an indiscriminate weapon and are not helping to produce a political settlement."

On Friday, Waldegrave toured the West Bank. Waldegrave, who is on a week-long fact-finding mission, is scheduled to meet Foreign Minister Moshe Arens Sunday and will depart Monday for Jordan.

Waldegrave also announced that Britain would contribute £500,000 to help Palestinian refugees.

(Continued on page 2)



A CASE OF LOOTING... A disabled boy in Caracas carrying his crutches and soft drinks stolen from a market during riots last week.

Death toll seen up to 500 in Caracas riots

CARACAS (R) — Venezuelan President Carlos Andres Perez was going ahead with meeting Nicaraguan contra rebels Saturday as calm returned and more shops opened after a week of riots that brought up to 500 reported deaths.

Caracas was returning to normal after a night of quiet unbroken by sporadic shooting for the first time since the riots, sparked by price rises, erupted Monday.

Soldiers and police continued to patrol the streets, but more stores and businesses opened their doors to the public and the city's dusk-to-dawn curfew was shortened by three hours.

A Defence Ministry spokesman said he did not know the precise death toll, but a source at Caracas' Monte Bello morgue told Reuters 375 bodies had been registered there.

The Caracas daily El Nacional said 350 had died and 1,500 were under arrest. Perez told a news conference Friday about 300 had

died and the wounded could number more than 2,000.

But two other newspapers, Ultimas Noticias and the English-language Daily Journal, said more than 500 people were killed.

Jorge Redmond, president of the Venezuelan food industry chamber, told a news conference Friday that 50 to 60 per cent of stores in the low-income areas of Caracas were either robbed or destroyed in the rioting.

Police searched for looters and confiscated thousands of dollars in stolen goods, government spokesman said.

Perez, playing the role of Latin America's elder statesman, decided to go ahead with the meeting with contra leaders despite the rioting and looting that marked Venezuela's worst bout of public unrest in more than three decades.

The violence, which Perez called a "social explosion," was sparked by increases in bus fares and petrol.

9 killed, 50 hurt in British rail crash

LONDON (R) — Nine people were killed and at least 50 injured when two passenger trains collided Saturday in the second major train crash in South London in three months, a hospital spokesman said.

He said six people died at the scene and three in hospital after two trains crashed into each other near the suburban station of Purley.

Several carriages crashed down an embankment into gardens and one was ripped apart by the impact.

Rescue workers said every-one had been cut free from the wreckage. But some of the injured were seriously hurt and the number of dead could rise.

The trains were both heading for London's Victoria station when one apparently hit the back of the other and swung across the track.

Several carriages smashed down a steep slope into gardens and rolled over, leaving others perched precariously on the edge of the embankment. Firemen rushed to the scene to cut passengers free and hospital workers aided the injured.

Witness Meesha Footer said six trees were cut in half by the force of carriages careering off the rails.

"I could hear people shouting and groaning... there was a lot of blood and I saw one body covered with a blanket. There was one man with his leg hanging off," she said.

Junior Transport Minister Michael Portillo inspected the wreckage of the accident, which occurred just three months after the Clapham train crash killed 35.

"It's a terrible scene. There is a lot of destruction," he said. "There was a very loud crash after the collision followed by an eerie silence," said Samantha Mageridge, who was on the platform at Purley station a few hundred metres from the crash.

"Then doors of the train started to open and there were shouts from inside the carriages."

Rosemary Jetten, who lives right by the crash site, said: "I heard a loud bang and looked out of my back window. I saw a cloud of smoke and trees flying through the air and could see the train coming off the bank into my garden."

Scholarship regulations approved

AMMAN (Petra) — The Cabinet Saturday approved new scholarship regulations which pertain only to students scholarships after transferring the affairs of civil servants scholarships to the jurisdiction of the Civil Service Commission. A committee supervising students' scholarships was set up under the chairmanship of the minister of higher education. The Cabinet, during a regular session chaired by Prime Minister Zaid Rifai, also approved an amendment to the regulation of civil servants travel, approved the budget of the Postal Savings Fund and the distribution of JD 13 million revenues from fuel sales to municipal and rural councils.

Israeli army foils 'Day of Peace'

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Israeli troops turned back hundreds of Israelis who tried to visit Palestinians during a "Day of Peace" Saturday but several hundred others were allowed into the occupied West Bank, organisers of the demonstration said.

Local leaders of the Palestinian uprising, in a leaflet issued Friday, had called on Palestinians to welcome the supporters of the Peace Now movement "with open arms."

Sources quoted by Reuters said Palestinians waiting for the groups to arrive clashed with troops in the centre of Ramallah and two were injured by gunshots.

About 1,500 Peace Now supporters set out from four cities Saturday morning heading for towns in the West Bank. Organisers said troops set up roadblocks and stopped three groups heading for Ramallah, Nablus and Beit Sahour.

But a Peace Now spokesman, Amiram Goldbloom, said several hundred others persuaded soldiers to let them visit two villages near Nablus.

He said another group of about 200 met Palestinians at Beit Sira near Ramallah.

Organisers said troops at roadblocks showed the organisers an army order declaring districts near Hebron and Ramallah to be closed military areas.

The organisers said they then contacted Israeli Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin to ask permission to travel to the West Bank but he denied the request because they did not have the proper permits. Eitan Haber, an aide to Rabin, confirmed this.

The peace activists were outraged by Rabin's order to prevent the meetings, and criticised him for "surrender" to pressure from Jewish settlers. They said he was using the army for political purposes.

"We weren't planning any

assemblies or marches or demonstrations — just meetings," said Tsali Reshef, spokesman for Peace Now. "It is very sad that the defence minister has chosen to prevent this kind of meeting."

"We would like to prove to Israel and to the rest of the world that with right approach and with mutual respect, peaceful relations can be had... and we will not give up."

Parliament member Dedi Zucker of the Citizens Rights Movement party said the army closures reflected a government policy that was not conducive to making peace. Israel Radio said.

Parliamentarian Ran Cohen, who took part in the meetings, also accused Rabin of bucking to pressure from settlers. "Rabin is a slave to the settlers," Cohen told activists.

"If a stone is going to fly today or somebody is going to shoot a Palestinian Arab, woman or child, it will be on the conscience of Rabin who has prevented this day of peace in Ramallah," he said.

"This government is a government of cowards," Cohen said. "They send kids, 19 and 20, and reservists to serve in the (occupied) territories, to kill and be killed instead of sitting at a table and negotiating peace."

Two groups turned away from the West Bank went to an alternative meeting site in Arab Jerusalem where they met Palestinians in a parking lot and sang "We Shall Overcome."

Goldbloom said the group tried to press the legal limits of the army's power in the occupied territories.

In a rare move, the Unified National Leadership of the Uprising distributed a leaflet in Ramallah, calling on followers not to attack Israeli vehicles bearing the Peace Now signs.

"We call on the masses of Palestinians... not to attack cars with Peace Now signs," the leaflet said.

Kabul gets supplies in Najibullah-rebel deal

KABUL (R) — A convoy of several hundred trucks carrying food and fuel from the Soviet Union reached the Afghan capital virtually unscathed Saturday following a deal struck between rebels and President Najibullah.

Afghan officials said up to 600 trucks arrived from the Soviet border town of Termez and 300 more were expected Sunday.

Truck drivers reported foul weather along the route down the Salang Highway from the Soviet border to Kabul through territory held by rebels but only a single attack, apparently launched by a rival group not a party to the deal.

"There was only one Mujahadeen attack," said Abdul Fatah, a convoy organiser. He said three rockets were fired from mountains north of Kabul. One set fire to a fuel tanker but the driver survived.

An Afghan official said Najibullah and his People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan (P.D.P.A.) government struck a deal with a rebel commander controlling Kabul province and

the Salang area to allow the convoy to pass safely.

"He is a very important man — his name is known to all," the official said.

He declined to name him but a Third World envoy said the rebel leader was most likely Ahmad Shah Massoud, the most successful Mujahadeen field commander in the nine-year fight against Afghan troops and the now-departed Soviet forces.

Massoud is reported to have extended his reach to Kunduz province near the Soviet border.

"Yes, there was a deal," said Fatah. "Massoud does not stop food and fuel for Kabul now. The rockets were fired by Gulbud-din's men."

Fatah was referring to Gulbud-din Hekmatyar, a hardline Afghan rebel leader opposed to any compromise with Najibullah.

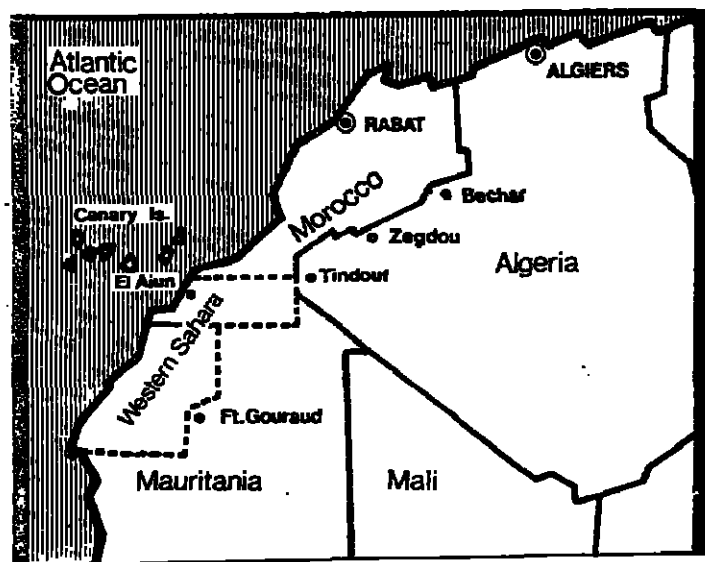
The deal would account for both the approach of the convoy, which had been delayed for nearly a week, and the absence of rebel shelling or rocket attacks on Kabul in the past 12 days.



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Presents sincere congratulations and best wishes to His Majesty King Hussein on the occasion of the Prophetic Ascension.

May God grant Your Majesty and the Arab and Islamic nations further prosperity and success in the years to come.



Morocco to ratify 17-year-old treaty

RABAT (R) — King Hassan said Friday Morocco would ratify a treaty signed 17 years ago with Algeria to settle a 1,150-kilometre desert border dispute.

He said the move was part of a new political mood after the two countries restored ties in May last year after a 12-year rift and the creation last month of a Maghreb union linking them with Libya, Mauritania and Tunisia.

In a broadcast marking his 28th year on the throne, the king said Rabat "decided to ratify the treaty signed between Morocco and Algeria in 1972 regarding the frontier line."

Algeria ratified the treaty soon after it was signed. The king said unspecified circumstances stopped Rabat ratifying it earlier, a reference to a dispute over the Western Sahara where Algerian-backed guerrillas have been fighting Morocco for independence.

The Polisario Front guerrillas held their first peace talks with Morocco in January and declared a ceasefire last month.

The treaty was signed after a brief war in 1963 over the border from Figuig in the north to Tindouf in the south.

It decided that Tindouf Oasis, which became a major Polisario base, was in southwest Algeria but that nearby iron ore mines at Gara Djebilet would be exploited jointly.

Algeria, which won independence from France in 1962, has now finalised its frontiers with all its neighbours.

King Hassan also pardoned 1,204 prisoners to mark the anniversary of his accession to the throne, the Justice Ministry said.

Crowds of relatives and friends gathered outside prisons, notably at the central prison in Kenitra north of Rabat where political prisoners are held.

Rumours that Hassan would release prisoners convicted of plotting against the monarchy could not be immediately confirmed but in a recent interview he said he would "make a gesture" in their favour.

PLO rejects unilateral move

(Continued from page 1)

PLO leader Yasser Arafat made the dialogue possible last December by accepting U.S. conditions including renunciation of terrorism. Washington has never given a definition of the word.

"The PLO renounces terrorism completely and rejects it completely... and hopes this U.S. administration will not fall into this confusion (between terrorism and self-defence)," the statement said.

"As everyone knows, the PLO is able to keep what it commits itself to, officially, legally and in practice."

Arab League U.N. envoy Clovis Maksoud said in Abu Dhabi Saturday that Palestinian attacks on Israeli forces in Lebanon and the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip could not be described as terrorism.

"We are deeply concerned about the pattern which the U.S. administration is developing concerning its interpretation of its dialogue with the PLO," he said. "The United States is becoming a relay station for Israel's

message and demands," he added.

"(It) must realise that the (Palestinian) uprising has to be accepted as an ongoing legitimate resistance and not as the Israeli term it 'violent riots'," he said.

"We also consider Lebanese and Palestinian resistance in South Lebanon to be legitimate acts against Israel's direct... occupation (of Lebanon)," said Maksoud, adding that calling such attacks terrorism was totally unacceptable.

He said a new Soviet plan for Middle East peace was better than proposals out of Washington and Arab states did not see it as an attempt to undermine U.S. influence in the region.

"Rather, it carries within it the seeds of assisting the United States in developing its own clear and coherent Middle East policy in the spirit of superpower détente," he said.

Maksoud described the proposals presented by Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze during a Middle-East trip last month as "dynamic, clear and coherent."

Waldegrave hits occupation

(Continued from page 1)

"It is imperative that all of us should do this to show the people that they are not forgotten," Waldegrave said of the British contribution to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestinian refugees.

But he added, "it is no good to buy them off, they need a political solution."

Waldegrave said Friday that Israeli arguments that the situation in the occupied territories would improve with time were "crazy."

Speaking at the entrance to Nablus, Waldegrave also told Palestinians they should eschew violence and adopt Gandhi-like methods of non-violent resist-

ance. Waldegrave, whose visit to Israel began amid controversy over remarks about Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's terrorist past, seemed shocked after touring empty streets of Nablus, under curfew since an Israeli soldier was killed Feb. 24.

"It's a very strange and creepy feeling... (and) I wish people would look at things coolly and ask themselves again whether what is happening will not build up further bitterness which is going to produce further tragedy."

"The argument that I've heard from some people in Israel (government leaders) that, by waiting, it's going to get better... that's a crazy argument," one Waldegrave said of Israel's policy.

Mahdi expected to resign but may be renominated

Hardliners may stay out of Sudan's new cabinet

KHARTOUM (R) — The new government taking shape in Sudan is expected to mark a strong shift towards peace talks with southern rebels, official and diplomatic sources said Saturday.

The new coalition, being formed under pressure from Sudan's armed forces, is likely to exclude the main party of Muslim hardliners and bring in a group which tried to broker a settlement with the rebels last year, the sources said.

Whether Prime Minister Sadeq Al Mahdi will lead the new coalition is unclear.

He is widely expected to announce his resignation Sunday. But he has no obvious successor and press reports say his Umma Party, the largest in parliament, may nominate him to succeed himself when the assembly meets Monday.

Sudan has been locked in a political crisis since Feb. 20 when the officer corps delivered an ultimatum to Mahdi calling for formation of a broad-based government which would either make peace or provide resources to win the civil war in the south.

Whether the army would accept Mahdi as the leader of a

new coalition was also unclear. Press reports say the officers hold him largely responsible for their setbacks on the battlefield.

The official news agency SUNA reported Saturday that the Supreme Council, a five-man collective presidency, had hammered out an agreement to underpin a new government.

Party and trade union leaders were expected to sign it later in the day.

The main parties in Sudan's present coalition are Mahdi's Umma and the National Islamic Front (NIF).

Under a deal that official and diplomatic sources said was taking shape this weekend, the Islamic front would be replaced in the new line-up by the Democratic Unionist Party, which quit Mahdi's government in December after an unsuccessful peace bid.

The NIF advocates a military solution of the civil war and espouses nationwide Islamic law,

which is anathema to the rebels.

Sources said the NIF was expected to boycott the proposed new coalition on the grounds that it could not work in harmony.

"Let me put it this way," said one diplomatic source. "None of the generals will be sorry to see NIF toughing it out in opposition."

By contrast, the sources said, the new government would almost certainly include the second largest party in parliament, the DUP, which served in Mahdi's coalition from May 1986 until last December.

The DUP held negotiations with the rebel Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) in Ethiopia last year, acting with Mahdi's approval but without a commitment from the coalition to accept the outcome.

The result was a draft agreement in mid-November which would have put the key issue of Sharia on hold pending a national constitutional conference.

The Umma Party welcomed the accord but the NIF called it a surrender. Muslim militants rioted in Khartoum, parliament voted the agreement down and DUP leader Mohammad Osman

Al Mirghani pulled his party out of Mahdi's coalition.

The failed peace bid was followed by humiliating defeats in the south for Sudan's 60,000-strong army, which is poorly equipped for its war with the SPLA's estimated 40,000 rebels.

The SPLA claims to have captured two garrison towns in the past week alone.

Mahdi, 53, took office in May 1986 having won Sudan's first democratic polls in nearly 20 years after the downfall of President Jaafar Numeiri.

He has vowed to resign this weekend unless the armed forces give him a free hand. He is scheduled to hold a news conference Sunday.

Sudan's generals have put the armed forces on full nationwide alert. Soldiers are stopping and searching vehicles on the outskirts of Khartoum and sandbag defences have been thrown around key military buildings in the capital.

"I have a hard time imagining Mahdi actually resigning, but 99 per cent of Khartoum expects him to," a diplomat said Saturday.

Lebanon alarmed over Israeli plans in south

BEIRUT (AP) — The civilian and military cabinets in Lebanon's dual government Saturday issued separate statements voicing concern over a reported plan by Israel to expand its self-declared security zone in southern Lebanon.

An official statement said,

"The rival military cabinet of General Michel Aoun, in a statement published by the independent daily Al Nahar, expressed 'deep concern over the statements made by some Israeli military commanders which clearly revealed Israel's intention to widen the area of what it calls the 'security zone.'"

Major General Youssi Peled, Israel's northern front commander, was quoted Thursday as saying he was considering ex-

panding the "security zone."

Voice of the South radio, the mouthpiece of the Israeli-allied South Lebanon Army militia that operates in the zone, said Peled wanted to include five Druze villages in the strip.

The broadcast said the move was requested by unnamed leaders of the Mimes, Khalwat, 'Ain Senta, Kfir and 'Ain Ata villages located in the central Bekaa Valley, a few kilometres north of the "security zone."

The Voice of the Nation radio,

based in west Beirut, broadcast statements issued in the five villages that denied making such a request or having contacts with the Israelis in the "security zone."

"Peled's statement reflects his intention to widen the security zone," the broadcast said.

Israel kept control of a 10-to-16 kilometre deep zone when it withdrew the bulk of its occupation army from South Lebanon in summer 1985.

RJ hijack leader 'tricked' passengers

WASHINGTON (AP) — A steward from a Royal Jordanian (RJ) jet hijacked in 1985 testified Friday that accused sky pirate Fawaz Younis threatened to kill passengers and crew and tricked them into believing his men had shot the plane's security guards.

The steward, Omar Suliman Al Ghadi, 32, was the fifth witness in the trial at U.S. district court to identify Younis as the leader of five heavily armed men who stormed aboard RJ Flight 402 in Beirut June 11, 1985.

In the initial moments of the hijacking, Ghadi testified, Younis ran to the front of the Boeing 727, pounded on the locked cockpit door with his gun and shouted, "If you don't open the door, I will explode it."

The hijackers were armed with AK-47 assault rifles and hand grenades, according to testimony from other witnesses and a videotape taken at the end of the 30-hour ordeal.

The testimony by Ghadi was the first during the five-day trial to portray Younis as directly threatening the passengers and crew with death.

Younis, 30, has pleaded innocent to a six-count indictment stemming from the hijacking. He was captured by Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) agents in international waters in the Mediterranean sea Sept. 13, 1978, more than two years after the hijacking, and the trial is seen

as a test of a 1984 statute that in which U.S. authorities assert "long-arm" jurisdiction over the taking of American hostages.

Near the end of the hijacking, Ghadi testified, the sky pirates told passengers and crew that at 7 a.m. the following morning, they would "start killing" them, "the security officers first."

The hijackers removed jewelry from a female security officer, and led all nine of them off the plane.

Afghan rebels ponder where to site their government

By Michael Battye
Reuters

ISLAMABAD — Now they have managed to form a government, Afghanistan's fractious Mujahadeen rebels are faced with the major problem of where to put it.

Sibghatullah Mojaddidi, elected president Feb. 23 of what the Mujahadeen call an interim government, promised it would be installed inside Afghanistan within a month.

Mujahadeen officials and Western diplomats say it is important the promise be honoured but choosing a seat for a government now based in the northwestern Pakistani city Peshawar is proving a major dilemma.

"We have been discussing it for a week, but we haven't made much progress," one Mujahadeen official said.

Getting the government installed inside Afghanistan quickly is important politically for the rebels, fighting the Kabul government now bereft of the Soviet military support it enjoyed for nine years.

Last year the leaders of seven Mujahadeen groups based in Peshawar formed a government under Ahmad Shah. The cabinet headed by moderate Mojaddidi was elected by a consultative council, or Shura, and has much wider backing.

"Ahmad Shah sat in Peshawar and became a joke. Mojaddidi's has to demonstrate as soon as possible that it is not Peshawar-bound," one Western diplomat said.

"Putting it inside will demonstrate that it is an Afghan creation and Afghan-run" he said, referring to widespread

charges, especially from Kabul, that the Mujahadeen are the tool of the Pakistani military.

"Once it's inside, people can't influence it. Afghans will see it as theirs and start to rally round it, I think," he added.

Finding a place sufficiently safe from which the interim government can also communicate to the outside world is the problem.

The Mujahadeen have captured five of Afghanistan's 30 provincial capitals. One, Tarin Kot, earlier reported to have fallen, is still in government hands, Mujahadeen officials said.

They are reluctant to launch all-out assaults on other main Afghan cities they are besieging, mostly because guerrilla families are still inside them.

The rebel-held cities are either too far from Pakistan to

ensure easy communications with the outside world, or are vulnerable to government air strikes and the Soviet ground-to-ground missiles Moscow gave Kabul.

Mujahadeen officials say they are under pressure from the Pakistan military, keen to keep up the political momentum provided by the election of the government, to take an eastern Afghan city as the government seat as soon as possible.

Jalalabad, a three-hour drive along the road to Kabul from the Pakistan border, seems to be the Pakistani favourite.

But since the Soviet withdrawal ended Feb. 15 after nine years of unsuccessful war against the Mujahadeen, Kabul has reinforced Jalalabad, the rebels say.

The area around the city is flat, making difficult the all-

MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

SLA frees nine Lebanese in south

BEIRUT (R) — The Israeli-backed South Lebanon Army (SLA) militia released nine Lebanese detainees Friday. SLA-run Voice of the South radio reported. It said the nine, including two women, were held for nine months at Khiam prison camp in Israel's self-declared "security zone." SLA commander Antoine Lahd ordered the prisoner release, the radio said. Diplomats have estimated that about 300 Lebanese and Palestinian prisoners were being held at Khiam.

U.S. Middle East unit may move

TAMPA (AP) — A unit at MacDill air force base with responsibility for Middle East operations has been offered a base near the troubled region, says the army general who heads the command. "We're looking at four different alternatives going all the way from moving lock, stock and barrel to (moving) a very small forward headquarters element," General H. Norman Schwarzkopf, commander of the U.S. central command, was quoted as saying in Friday's Tampa Tribune. But Schwarzkopf would not divulge the name of the country he says is offering to become home to the first U.S. military headquarters in or near the Middle East.

First AIDS cases reported by Iran

GENEVA (AP) — Iran recorded its first five cases of AIDS last year, World Health Organisation (WHO) figures showed Friday. Iran's notification was among 2,008 new cases reported to WHO last month, which brought the total toll to 141,894 cases in 145 countries. Thirty-two countries said they had no cases, according to WHO's latest monthly epidemiological update. While not previously mentioning AIDS cases, Iran has reported that nearly 450 hemophiliacs, about 14 per cent of the country's known total, carry the virus that can cause the incurable disease. The United States, which has some 60 per cent of all AIDS victims, accounts for most of the new cases reported to WHO in February, 1,654. The U.S. total rose to 86,157 victims as of Feb. 16, who said West Germany, which has the third-highest total in Europe after France and Italy, reported 106 cases for a new total of 2,885. The Netherlands notified 43 new cases, Britain, 67, and South Africa, 45. For Iran, the new WHO bulletin listed five cases as of last Dec. 31. Last month's bulletin showed no cases in Iran Dec. 31, 1987.

Landslide kills 3 in northeast Turkey

ANKARA (R) — A landslide killed three people and injured one in northeast Turkey Saturday near the site of a major slide which killed 67 people last year, Anatolian news agency said. Earth and mud crushed four homes in the early morning in the village of Sume in Gumushane province, the agency reported. Officials in the northern provinces had warned residents and drivers to take care after a series of minor landslides caused by heavy rain and melting snow cut roads in the last two days. Sume is 45 kilometres west of the village of Catik, where half a million tonnes of mud and rocks engulfed cars, buses, lorries, two roadside cafes and several houses June 23 last year.

Iran rejects Amnesty reports

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — Iran's U.N. ambassador said Friday that Amnesty International's report of widespread executions in his country was distorted and based on information supplied by political opponents of Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini. Only "spies and terrorists have been executed," said Ambassador Mohammad Jafar Mahallati, in a letter to Amnesty International and Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar. Two weeks ago, the annual U.N. human rights report on Iran said there was an increase in arbitrary executions after a ceasefire in the nearly 8-year-old Gulf war took effect Aug. 20. In a report in December, Amnesty International said it appeared that thousands of political prisoners had been executed in Iran, many of them members of the Mujahadeen-e-Khalaf of Iran. Mahallati accused Amnesty International of uncritically accepting statements from the Mujahadeen as fact, and said the military wing of the Mujahadeen had tortured and killed Iranian civilians.

out assault the Mujahadeen say they would prefer to avoid.

"Our commanders there are talking about an attack but no decision has been made," said one rebel official who was in the Jalalabad area earlier this week.

"If we are going to do that, first we have to get the civilians out of the city. But enemy security is very heavy and they won't let people out," he said.

Western diplomats said the southern city of Kandahar was likely to fall sooner than Jalalabad.

Guerrillas are inching their way towards Kandahar airport, the city's main supply line, and government forces can only bridge the 25 kilometres between it and the city in armoured columns, they said.

Kandahar is at the heart of

an area supporting former King Zahir Shah and fundamentalists opposed to giving him any role in the country's future would not want the city as the government seat, diplomats said.

The Mujahadeen already have Asadabad, near the Pakistan border, but two rival Mujahadeen administrations are running it. "I doubt they'd want a third," said one diplomat.

The diplomats said the most logical site was Khost, near the Pakistani border about 130 kilometres south of Jalalabad.

They said guerrillas last week took two outposts guarding the city and that it now appeared vulnerable. Taking the city, which has held out against all the odds for nine years, would be an important psychological boost for the Mujahadeen.

JORDAN TELEVISION	
Tel: 77311-19	
PROGRAMME ONE	
15:30	Koran
15:40	Programme review
15:45	Children programmes
17:10	Football
18:00	News summary in Arabic
18:05	Local programme
18:25	Arabic series
19:15	Local programme
19:40	Programme review
20:00	News in Arabic
20:30	Arabic series
21:30	Programme review
21:40	Variety programme
23:00	News summary in Arabic
PROGRAMME TWO	
18:00	La Baby Sinter
18:30	L'Ecole des Fens
19:00	News in French
19:15	A documentary
19:30	News in Hebrew
19:45	Variety programme
20:00	News in Arabic
20:30	Perfect Strangers
21:10	Birds for all seasons
22:40	News in English
22:50	Murder Site Wrote
PRAYER TIMES	
04:30	Fajr
05:35	(Sunrise) Dhuh
11:47	Dhuhr
15:45	'Asr
17:30	Maghreb

CHURCHES	
St. Mary of Nazareth Church Sweteth, Tel. 810740	
Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 632785	
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590	
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440	
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757	
Teresian Church Tel. 623666	
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 633541	
Anglican Church Tel. 625383, Tel. 628543	
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 773531	
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751	
Armenian International Church Tel. 685226	
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 811255	
Rainbow Congregation Tel. 822605	
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 815817, 821264	
WEATHER	
Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.	
It will be partly cloudy with north-westerly moderate wind. In Aqaba, wind will be northerly moderate and seas calm.	

DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

ZARQA: Dr. Hisham Hyassat (—) Khalifeh pharmacy 985417

EMERGENCIES

Civil Defence Department	661111
Civil Defence Emergency	630341
Rescue Police	192, 621111, 637777
Fire Brigade	62309093
Blood Bank	775121
Highway Police	843402
Traffic Police	6859091
Public Security Department	656000 / 685111
Overseas Call	661176
Price Complaints	605800
Water and Sewerage	661176
Complaints	897467
Amman Municipality	787111
Telephone Information (directory assistance)	12
Overseas Call	17
Central Amman Telephone	623101
Abdali Telephone Repair	661101
Radio Television	772111
Radio Jordan	774111
Water Authority	680100

Jordan Electricity Authority 815615

Electric Power Company 636381

RJ Flight Information 06-53200

Queen Alia Int. Airport 06-53200

AMMAN: Khaldi Maternity, J. Amn. 642216

Alkehl Maternity, J. Amn. 642412

Alkehl Maternity, J. Amn. 642412

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Meeting to discuss means of stimulating exports

By Ziyad Al Shileh
Al Ra'i Staff Reporter

AMMAN — A specialised symposium on means of stimulating Jordanian exports is due to be held here on March 19 under the patronage of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan.

Prince Hassan's attendance of the coming symposium, in which a large number of businessmen and industrialists will participate, reflects the Crown Prince's continued encouragement of efforts to bolster the national economy through increasing exports, said Khaldoun Abu Hassan, president of the Amman Chamber of Industry which is sponsoring the

meeting.

Abu Hassan said that the participants will examine ways to increase and develop Jordanian exports to other countries and revise financial and monetary measures that could accompany any steps directed towards the achievement of this objective.

Experiences of other countries with economic conditions similar to Jordan in export operations will be scrutinised at the meeting, Abu Hassan added.

Abu Hassan was speaking following a meeting which discussed topics on the agenda of the coming meeting and the working papers which will be reviewed by the participants.

NATIONAL NEWS IN BRIEF

MEETING ON PHOSPHATES: Measures to increase the amount of phosphates, which is being transported from the southern Jordan mines to the port city of Aqaba for export, were among the main topics discussed at a meeting held at the Aqaba Railway Corporation Saturday. The meeting grouped Minister of Transport and Telecommunications Khaled Al Haj Hassan and heads of concerned authorities. The corporation's 1989 operational programme was also examined during the meeting. (Petra)

CLEANLINESS CAMPAIGN: In cooperation with the Arab Youth Forum (AYF), the Tourism Ministry organised a cleanliness campaign in the Dead Sea area. The campaign, which is being carried out by 50 young men and women from the AYF, covers a stretch of land extending from Sweimeh in the north to Zara in the south. (Petra)

ABANDA ATTENDS KUWAIT SEMINAR: The Meteorology Department has taken part in a specialised symposium held in Kuwait on Feb. 27, with the participation of eight other Arab countries. The department's Director General Ali Abanda, who attended the symposium, said that 28 research papers were submitted to the symposium. (Petra)

IRBID AGRICULTURAL MEETING: A meeting was held in Irbid Saturday to discuss the implementation of instructions issued by the Ministry of Agriculture on organising animal grazing in the Irbid Governorate pasture lands. Several specialists addressed the meeting, outlined proper grazing methods and presented ideas on combating desert locusts. (Petra)

STUDENTS VISIT REHABILITATION CENTRE: A group of students from the University of Jordan visited the Reformatory and Rehabilitation Centre at Swaga south of Amman and were briefed on vocational training work offered to the prison inmates aimed at making them useful and productive citizens. University officials and police officers accompanied the students on their visit. (Petra)

CANADIAN EXPERT VISITS QOU: Dr. Gail Crawford, Canadian expert in the field of distance education and instructional Psychology at the Centre for Distance Education at Athabasca University, Alberta, Canada, is currently visiting Al-Quds Open University for two weeks until March 10, 1989. During that period Crawford will meet with QOU staff members in the academic, administrative and production departments. The objective of Crawford's consultancy and training mission is to advise QOU staff in the field of course materials developments. (Petra)

SATELLITE DISCUSSION: The American Cultural Centre in Amman will host a live television conference on Venture Capital Monday in which Jordanian economics experts will trade views with American businessmen on the problem of finding investment capital for high-growth enterprises employing new technologies. Dr. Jawad Anani, President of the Royal Scientific Society, and other Jordanian economic experts will exchange views via satellite with the Washington guests, Mr. David Gladstone, President of the Allied Capital Corporation, and Dr. Barry Rogstad, President of the American Business Conference. (J.T.)

16 JOURNALISTS SWORN IN: A total of 16 journalists Saturday were sworn in as members of the Jordan Press Association. The swearing in ceremony was attended by Minister of Information Hani Khasawneh and Association President Rakan Al Majali. The minister, in a brief speech on the occasion, called on journalists to be extra careful in reporting news and information in their drive to serve their country and community. Majali for his part reviewed the association's achievements over the past years. The ministry's secretary general attended the ceremony. (Petra)

MOROCCAN NATIONAL DAY: Moroccan Ambassador to Jordan Abdul Latif Laraki Saturday evening held a reception at the Marriott Hotel on the occasion of King Hassan's accession to the throne. The reception was attended by senior government officials, key public figures and members of the diplomatic community in the Kingdom. (J.T.)

MORE CEMENT SHIPPED TO EGYPT: A consignment of 22,500 tonnes of Jordanian cement was shipped Thursday aboard the vessel Ghadir to Egypt. This is the sixth consignment sent to Egypt in accordance with the agreement signed in late July which provides for exporting 750,000 tonnes of cement to Egypt. With this consignment, a total of 130,000 tonnes of cement has thus been exported to Egypt. (Petra)

LOANS FOR PROJECTS: Minister of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment and chairman of the board of directors of Cities and Villages Development Bank Marwan Al Hmoud has agreed to grant a loan of JD 1 million to Zarqa municipality to be used in various municipal projects. He also agreed to grant a loan of JD 500,000 to Irbid Municipality for opening roads and JD 35,000 to Mut'a Municipality to finance the construction of a municipality building. (Petra)

SUPPLY LAW VIOLATOR FINED: The military court has sentenced Salaheddin Salem Ali Ma'rout to the payment of JD 100 fine or 200 days in prison for violating supply regulations and raising the prices of foodstuffs. The military governor endorsed the sentence. (Petra)

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

- * The Arab Contemporary Artists exhibition at Al Wasiti Gallery.
- * An exhibition entitled "The Icebreaker" which includes showing a film about the activities of a Swedish icebreaker and the environment surrounding it, a photo exhibition and a radio programme at the French Cultural Centre.
- * An art exhibition by Mohammed Bolis and Munira Al Tunisiyya at Al Qadisiyya College.
- * An exhibition of photographs and paintings showing the main European cities in three historical eras, at the University of Jordan.
- * An exhibition of paintings for children by Titiana Rifai and Karoline Ayoub at Haya Arts Centre.
- * A plastic art exhibition by Rula Shuqairi at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- * A plastic art exhibition by Noelle Shawa at Alia Art Gallery.
- * An art exhibition by Ahmed Subeili at the Petra Bank Gallery.
- * A graphic art exhibition displaying works by German artists Liebermann, Slevogt and Corinth at the Jordan National Gallery.
- * Amman International Book Exhibition which includes various scientific, literary, religious and children's books at the International Motor Centre.



Qasem receives East German envoy

EAST German Ambassador-designate to Jordan Carl Heinz Logeheim Saturday handed a copy of his credentials to Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Marwan Al Qasem. Logeheim

who will be non-resident ambassador in Amman succeeds Wolfgang Grabowski who had served as ambassador here since 1985 (Petra photo)

Tarawneh: Frozen meat imports will not replace fresh one

AMMAN (J.T.) — Minister of Supply Fayez Tarawneh has denied that the frozen meat to be imported by Jordan this year will serve as a substitute for fresh meat which Jordan normally imports from East European countries.

In a television interview Tarawneh said that Jordan will import 15,000 tonnes of meat during 1989, of which 10,000 will be fresh and the rest frozen.

The frozen meat will be imported from New Zealand and tests on samples of New Zealand meat proved to be of very high quality, the minister noted.

He said that the frozen meat as well as the imported frozen poultry meat and fish are no substitute for fresh meat but they are needed to achieve a balance in the types of foodstuffs consumed in Jordan.

Tarawneh also stressed that the Ministry of Supply has no intention of raising the price of imported meat or stopping imports altogether despite the recent rise in the cost of air freight.

The minister said that consignments of frozen meat are expected in Jordan by June, but these will consist mainly of mutton of no more than 15 kilogramme per head.

During the holy month of Ramadan Tarawneh said the Ministry of Supply plans to import additional quantities of meat and other foodstuffs.

He noted that the ministry is constantly increasing the capacity of its warehouses to store as much food as possible to suffice the Kingdom for at least six months.

He said Jordan's wheat production this year is expected to increase by 50 per cent to reach 75,000 tonnes.

Anani, Turkish team discuss cooperation

AMMAN (Petra, J.T.) — A Turkish team representing the Scientific Research Council in Ankara (Tubitak) Saturday opened talks at the Royal Scientific Society (RSS) to pave the way for future cooperation in scientific and technological fields.

The leader of the team Kudrat Felciuk met with RSS President Jawad Al Anani and heads of RSS departments and said later that Turkey was ready to open new scopes of cooperation that can benefit the two countries.

Anani, said that the RSS seeks to promote cooperation between Jordan and Turkey in technical and technological fields with special attention on preserving potential energy in buildings, solar and wind power, with a view to supplying electricity to remote regions.

"We hope that the two sides will employ energy to benefit agriculture and to launch high level cooperation between uni-

versities in training personnel to be employed in energy related projects in the two countries," Anani said.

The visiting team had a meeting later with experts from the Building Research Centre at the RSS and discussed fields of cooperation in construction of low-cost housing.

According to an RSS statement the two sides will discuss joint projects in matters related to monitoring earthquakes, and constructing earthquake-resisting homes, preserving energy in buildings, solar and wind energy, and training programmes for Turkish and Jordanian technicians.

The visit, according to the statement, comes in the framework of a joint cooperation agreement signed by the two sides in 1986.

On Sunday, the three-member Turkish team will visit the Building Research Centre project, the Jordan Valley and the Dead Sea.

ESCWA director visits Royal Geographic Centre

AMMAN (Petra) — Director of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) Dr. Ahmad Rajai Saturday called at the Royal Jordanian Geographic Centre and met with its director who explained programmes related to the use of remote sensing techniques and their applications.

The centre uses these techniques in the search for natural resources and underground water, the centre's director said.

The two sides discussed prospects for cooperation between ESCWA and the centre at the local and regional levels.

Jordan took part in a three-day meeting by ESCWA's statistics technical committee which was

concluded in Baghdad Thursday.

The ESCWA meeting decided to hold the second Arab conference on statistics in Amman in November 1989 and recommended that Arab countries in the region maintain their cooperation with the Arab League in the coming two years to finalise a statistics coordination programme, which entails training of personnel and providing services in statistics related affairs.

The three-day meeting was attended by delegates from Jordan, Iraq, Bahrain, Palestine, Egypt, Kuwait, North Yemen and Lebanon, as well as a number of Arab League affiliated organisations.

Tunisian delegation inspect facilities for combatting locusts

AMMAN (Petra, J.T.) — A visiting Tunisian delegation Saturday held talks with officials and specialists from the Ministry of Agriculture and inspected facilities for combatting desert locusts that have invaded the Kingdom.

Jordanian-Tunisian cooperation in agriculture were discussed at a meeting grouping the visiting delegation and Ministry of Agriculture's Secretary General Salem Al Lawzi.

The delegation, which repre-

sents the Tunisian Agency for Agrarian Reform led by Hussein Zaghir, discussed with Lawzi questions related to rural development and agrarian reform in the Kingdom.

The delegation members were later taken on a visit to the operations room controlling locust combatting operations and were briefed on the preparations and equipment used as well as the precautionary measures being taken by the ministry to deal with

expected locust invasions.

The delegation members later visited the Zarqa River basin and were briefed on the progress of a project designed to preserve and protect the soil from erosion through planting forests along the river.

The project entails measures to reduce the amount of silt that can be deposited at the bottom of the King Talal Dam which provides water for irrigation in the Jordan Valley region.

Ministry prepares to meet the locust menace

AMMAN (USIS) — The Agricultural Machinery Department of the Ministry of Agriculture is busily producing exhaust sprayers that will be essential in the campaign against the locust invasion that is expected this spring.

Late last year, anticipating the need to outfit trucks and other vehicles with spray equipment, department director, Samir Fanash ordered two exhaust sprayers from England.

Using the imported sprayers as a model, Fanash's workmen designed a more rugged but inexpensive sprayer for use in Jordan. While an imported sprayer costs over JD 800, the workshop produces sprayers for only JD 70 each. Only the pressure gauge is imported.

Fanash's workshop which is located at the National Centre for Agricultural Research and Technology Transfer (NCARTT) in Baqa'a, has produced 130 sprayers and has begun exporting some to Sudan and Saudi Arabia where the need for the equipment is great.

Mounted on vehicles, the sprayers are easily activated when connected to the vehicle exhaust pipe. The exhaust forces a verti-

cule spray of pesticide into the air as the vehicle crosses an infested field of orchard. According to experts, Jordan's supply of exhaust sprayers will be a major asset in the control of locusts.

Ground spraying is useful against both marching and flying swarms that have roosted for the night. Ground spraying is the most efficient technique to control locust swarms that are less than 100 hectares in size, and which are located in areas accessible by vehicle.

Although there is a great deal of knowledge about locust behaviour, none can predict precisely what sort of challenge the pests will pose for Jordan. That depends upon the weather and measures taken to control the swarms in nearby countries. Therefore the government of Jordan and concerned donors are working together to have mechanisms ready for meeting the forthcoming challenges.

When locust swarms were reported in Saudi Arabia in October 1988, the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) offered its assistance to the Ministry of Agriculture in preparing to protect

Jordan as the swarms spread north.

Dr. Randall Cummings, Director of USAID's agriculture office here, was asked to take the lead in coordinating international donor assistance. At the request of the government of Jordan, he called a meeting on Nov. 7 to alert the international community to the potential need for assistance, and to discuss how the group could pool resources and have them available in a timely manner.

USAID supported a Locust Control Fund at the Agricultural Credit Corporation to receive donations and track expenditures, to which USAID has contributed \$450,000 for aircraft and fuel, and \$25,000 for protective clothing. Canada has added 50,000 Canadian dollars, and Japan \$160,000.

Also at the request of the government international donors are delivering a variety of equipment and expertise. The Islamic Development Bank has provided 14 Toyota land cruisers and USAID's National Agriculture Development Project has made available 5 pickup trucks. Great Britain has donated microaire

Jordan and 4 Middle East states discuss grid interconnection

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan and four Middle Eastern countries opened a three-day meeting in Amman Saturday to discuss a power grid interconnection in the region and promote cooperation among themselves in energy-related fields.

The meeting, held at the Jordan Electricity Authority (JEA) offices, are being attended by representatives from Jordan, Iraq, Syria, Egypt and Turkey, whose countries last January reached tentative agreement in Ankara on launching the scheme.

The Islamic Development Bank and the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development are also represented at the meeting to discuss prospects of financing the project.

The delegates are discussing technical aspects of the interconnection scheme among their countries in a bid to agree on a programme for implementation which will be preceded first by a feasibility study, according to a JEA statement.

The meeting of experts was opened by Minister of Energy and Mineral Resources Hisham Al Khatib who said Jordan attaches importance to this project and the deliberations which would pave the way for coordination and close cooperation among the five countries.

Jordan and Syria has been cooperating in power supply matters over the past 10 years and Jordan and Egypt are now heading towards linking their national grids, a project which is expected to take three years to complete, Khatib noted.

He said that Jordan and Iraq are also studying the prospect of linking their grids and the way is open for linking the three countries with other states in the region, Khatib added.

The Turkish and Iraqi grids are already linked and Iraq is currently supplying parts of Turkey with electric power.

Energy officials and specialists from Jordan, Egypt and an international consultancy firm have completed a feasibility study on a project for linking the national grids of Egypt and Jordan, and a full report was submitted to the joint Jordanian Egyptian Higher Committee in Cairo recently.

The \$170 million project will take four years to implement according to JEA officials.

Following the Ankara meeting it was announced that the five countries were also contemplating the idea of linking their grids at a later stage with that of Europe through Turkey.

The technical committee in Amman is the first of its kind and was decided on by the ministers of energy in the five countries during their meeting in Ankara.

JEA Director Muhammad Said Arafah represents Jordan at the meeting.



Representatives of Jordan, Syria, Egypt, Iraq and Turkey Saturday hold talks on energy issues at the JEA offices in Amman (Petra photo)

Jordan, India to discuss further boosting economic cooperation

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan and India this month open talks designed to further boost economic and trade cooperation and look into prospects of launching joint ventures, according to an announcement released here Saturday.

The talks will be conducted through the Joint Jordanian-Indian Economic Committee, which will convene during March, to review these matters under the co-chairmanship of Ministry of Industry and Trade's Secretary General Mohammed Saqqaf and the under secretary of the Indian Ministry of Foreign Trade, the announcement said.

It said that the two sides will look into the prospect of increasing Jordanian products to India, especially phosphate, potash and cement.

According to official statistics India is the largest importer of Jordanian phosphate and potash and its imports of Jordanian phosphates and other fertiliser-related products were estimated at \$110 million.

In 1987 Jordan's exports to

India amounted to JD 22 million while Indian exports to Jordan were worth only JD 1.4 million.

To adjust the balance a private sector Indian company was given a \$104 million contract to build part of a new 540-kilometre Aqaba-Iraq road, and the new interchanges at the Ministry of Interior Circle and Sports City were built by another Indian firm at the cost of JD 5 million.

During Indian Prime Minister

Rajiv Gandhi's visit to Jordan last summer, questions of economic relations and prospects of boosting bilateral trade were discussed by officials and experts from both sides.

Last September Minister of Labour Marwan Dudin told the Jordan Times in an interview that there were about 2,000 Indians working in Jordan from top level management positions to skilled labour.

RJ to take part in talks on aircraft lease

AMMAN (Petra, J.T.) — Royal Jordanian (RJ) the national airline, is to take part in an international conference on aircraft lease which is organised by the International Air Transport Association (IATA) in New York on April 19.

An RJ spokesman said that the participants will discuss advantages and disadvantages of leasing aircraft with three world airlines to be considered as case studies in this respect.

Under an accord with a consortium of European banks, RJ sold part of its fleet and conducted a lease-back deal.

Cash, generated from aircraft sales and a full payment lease-back arrangement, was used to pay all of RJ's short and long-term debts and cleaned the airline's balance sheets, according to an earlier statement by RJ Chairman and Chief Executive Officer Ali Ghandour.



The exhaust sprayers have been mounted on vehicles and are ready to combat locust swarms.

Jordan Times

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Let the rule of law reign

IT IS a foregone conclusion that Salman Rushdie's book "The Satanic Verses" is intolerably offensive to Islam and irreversibly repugnant to the essence of Islamic teachings and precepts. What is more, the whole affair of that diabolic book has reactivated age-old religious and intellectual interferences towards the Muslims that are reminiscent of the dark days of the Crusaders.

The irony of all this is that the whole debacle could have been nipped in the bud had it been handled legally right from the start. In every country where the book was published there is a sufficient body of domestic laws that prohibits any publications or utterances that tend to ridicule or defame religion. The promotion of religious tolerance is an organic law deeply embedded in domestic and international legislations. Practically, all jurisprudences worldwide have construed the edict of religious tolerance to include the prohibition not only of any attack, slander or defamation against any religious belief, but also of any word or deed which touches negatively on religious sensitivity. International fora on human rights have more than enough references to the need to accord reverence to religions and to afford them protection and respect. Thus, on the strength of the laws of each and every country where the book in question was published and distributed, legal proceedings could have been taken to stop the acts of blasphemy committed against Islam as maliciously portrayed in Rushdie's book.

The chain reaction of acrimonious and vengeful events that ensued on state level from Rushdie's debacle could have thus been broken. Above all the diplomatic row that developed in the aftermath of the publication of the book could have also been avoided. If legal recourse to stop the dissemination of falsehoods on Islam prove to be insufficient, then the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) would become seized with the issue to adopt the necessary and appropriate policies regarding any country which frustrates the legal process.

As for Salman Rushdie, his fate should have been addressed by an Islamic tribunal as a deterrent to all others who may contemplate violating Islam. To be sure, Islam's ways are not the cowboy ways. Islam does not call for dispatching a posse to lynch infidels. Nor does Islam offer bounties for the heads of the enemies of Islam. Islam is a religion of grandeur that applies the most sophisticated systems of justice. Muslims do not wish to molest the image of true Islam in the process of redeeming the wrongs committed against it.

JORDAN PRESS EDITORIALS

Jordanian Arabic newspapers commented Saturday on statements by Prime Minister Zaid Rifai to Al Sharq Al Awsat newspaper in which he tackled Arab affairs and the Jordanian domestic situation. Al Ra'i daily said that the prime minister emphasised two important points in his statements: King Hussein's continued drive to end inter Arab differences, and the government's efforts to rebuild the national economy and bolster the national currency. The paper said that the King is keen on ending all Arab differences and unifying Arab ranks at a time when the Arab World is confronted by a number of serious questions. The prime minister said that Jordan, does not face an economic problem but rather a financial crisis which emanated from the failure of some Arab states to fulfil their financial commitment to the Kingdom in implementation of the Baghdad summit resolutions, the paper noted. It said that Jordan can and will overcome the present difficult circumstances and will continue to shoulder its national task regardless of the difficulties and whether the Arab countries honoured their financial commitments to the Kingdom or not because the country is oriented towards serving pan-Arab causes. The paper said that Jordan's endeavours to establish the Arab Cooperation Council and the King's relentless efforts to rally the Arab countries stand out as a proof of the Kingdom's pan-Arab policies.

Writing in Al Ra'i daily, columnist Tareq Masarweh appeals to the Higher Council for Science and Technology and research centres in the Kingdom to offer farmers and stock breeders new types of animal feed that can be produced locally at the lowest possible cost. He also calls on the concerned authorities to encourage local farmers and people living in the rural regions to raise chicken near their homes like farmers used to do in Jordan tens of years ago to serve side by side with the large poultry farms. The writer says that this measure is badly needed now in view of the soaring prices of animal feed and to help the country cut down on imported concentrates or animal feed for the poultry farms. Masarweh says there is no need to produce 90 million eggs for which there is no market, and there is no need to grow certain types of crops which cannot be sold here or abroad. The writer says that in view of the present economic crisis Jordanians in general and the research centres and universities in particular are called on to adopt a national policy that can ensure food security at the lowest possible cost.

Al Dustour daily described Prime Minister Zaid Rifai's statement published in Al Sharq Al Awsat newspaper as comprehensive, tackling different domestic and pan-Arab issues. The paper said that Rifai described Jordan as a bridge and a channel of communications, promoting cooperation among Arab countries and seeking to end differences. This is King Hussein's clear policy at present and it is designed to strengthen the Arab Nation's stand, the paper noted. It also referred to the King's endeavours to convene an international Middle East peace conference to end the Palestine problem, and said that the Kingdom's decision to sever links with the West Bank has obviously opened the way for convening this conference. The prime minister, Al Dustour noted, has referred to the Jordanian-PLO relations as very strong and based on mutual confidence and added that this clearly reflects the Kingdom's orientation towards backing the Palestinian people's just struggle to the end.

Sunday's Economic Pulse

Subsidy: Harmful, dangerous and unfair

By Dr. Faded Fawad

LAST year, 1988, the actual public expenditure of the government reached JD 1045.7 million, while revenues including aid totalled only JD 705.6 million. The deficit stood thus at JD 340.1 million. The deficit was covered by external and internal borrowing, drawing on the Central Bank overdraft, or deferring payment of due commitments. The financial deficit formed one third of the budget or one fifth of the gross domestic product. These are ratios of such magnitude that should draw the attention of policy-makers, because they represent the underlying reasons behind the financial crisis which the Jordanian economy witnessed recently, and which resulted in 30 per cent depreciation of the dinar and the sudden rise in the cost of living.

Hopefully 1989 may be better but even if we take the figures of the budget, we find that the revenue side was estimated to be JD 772.5 million while the government will spend JD 1035.4 million, thus leaving a large deficit of JD 262.9 million plus any budgeted Arab aid that may not be realised out of the JD 225 million listed in the budget.

On this background, the government finds itself under self-made pressure to subsidise the basic imported commodities. The subsidy needed to maintain the current prices is JD 66 million, of

which JD 36 million will go to bread alone, and the balance to support rice, sugar, red meat, poultry, milk, barley, and corn. Several points should have been considered before the government made up its mind on the matter of subsidies.

1. The budget of 1989 does not include sufficient allocations for subsidies. Any increase must result into higher deficit and more borrowing.

2. Borrowing abroad to cover the deficit is no more available even if we want it. Therefore, the Central Bank will be the only source of the extra funds, which will endanger the hoped for stability of the dinar, and may subject it to renewed pressure. The public will suffer more despite the artificial benefits.

3. Jordan is in the process of calling on the International Monetary Fund (IMF) for help. The first known condition of the IMF is to abolish subsidies. How can we be convincing if we embark now on a subsidy programme while our economy was kept almost subsidy-free until last year.

4. Subsidies to imported foodstuff will deal a blow to local producers, who will not be able to compete with the subsidised imports. Food insecurity and shortages will be the natural result.

5. Our people did not reject the rise of prices of imported items for the obvious reason of the higher exchange rate of foreign currencies. If the government could not adjust the prices of basic imported commodities slowly and gradually now, then what?

6. Subsidies are known to be temporary by nature. They must be removed at one point in time when the distortions and harm resulting from them become obvious. Subsidies may be politically sound on the short run, but they are harmful on the longer term, and threaten the stability of the country. Like alcohol or drugs, subsidy is tempting, because the pleasure comes first while the bill comes later on.

Contrary to the general belief, subsidy is not socially fair. It goes to those who consume more not to the needy who consume less. If you eat meat every day you get much more government support than if you cannot afford meat more than once a week. The economic and social cost of the subsidy will be borne by all the people, while the benefits will go to the rich, the tourists, the guest workers and the traffickers.

Subsidy is as dangerous economically and politically as the external indebtedness if not more. It should not be started at any price.

Solution in territory for peace

By Gad Ya'acobi

ISRAEL STANDS today before crucial decisions whose monumental importance is matched only by their stark simplicity. It can continue to be swept along by the currents of national deterioration that have prevailed in recent years, or it can change gears and adopt a fundamentally new national and societal course.

The burning controversy over the use of plastic bullets as opposed to less plastic means; the argument over the cost of public-transport subsidies vs. dairy and bread subsidies; the "dramatic" discussions over interest rates — all these are important issues. Their bearing on the truly major issues of our day is, however, minimal.

The time has come for a fundamental resolution of our national course, not because it was too early to decide years ago, but precisely because we did not do so. Our failure to decide in the past greatly exacerbated the situation, and renewed failure to do so today will make matters even worse. In the future, we will not be able to achieve what we could have achieved today, just as the missed opportunities for an interim settlement in 1971-72, the unilateral autonomy proposal in 1979-80 and the London Agreement in 1987 all led to a less favourable situation thereafter.

The same thing has happened in other spheres as well. The continuous failure, ever since 1971, to change the electoral sys-

tem has caused a deterioration in both the political system and the governmental structure. The economic policies of the late 1970s and early/mid 1980s, most prominently the "correct economics," continue to plague the Israeli economy to this day. The wounds of the Lebanon war have still not healed, even if this is not always immediately apparent.

The choice is thus between a change of course and a continuation of the deterioration. Not a change "only if calm first prevails in the territories" (to whom are we posing this condition, to ourselves? After all, we are the ones seeking change. Or should one child who throws a stone from behind some wall be able to put a stop to the entire peace process?); not a change "only if the United States launches an initiative" (and is it the fate of the United States that is on the line? Is the U.S. in danger of losing its Jewish majority in the year 2002? Are the U.S. economy and the quality of its society in danger?).

It is not the army that should be the focus of criticism, but the reality of a coercive and creeping annexation. It is this reality which, by its very nature, leads to human-rights violations and to the use of force and which undermines our moral values.

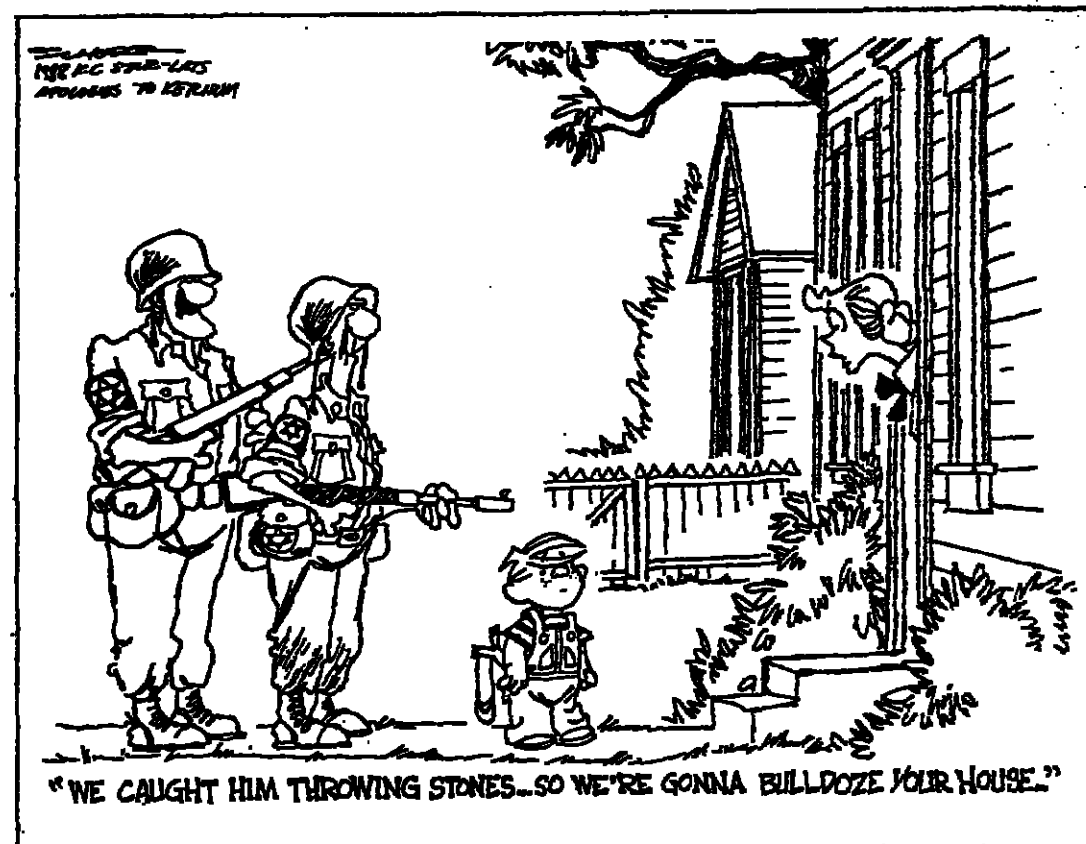
The intifada is an inseparable part of the annexation. Its resolution lies not in the further improvement of the types of weapons employed, but in a diplomatic settlement. No popular

uprising against a democratic government in the 20th century has been ended by military means. The uprisings in Algeria, Vietnam and Palestine before the establishment of the state all ended in diplomatic settlements. The same holds true today; the question is just how long it will take us to understand this and to reach the appropriate conclusions.

How much time must pass before we comprehend the equation: peace = security = economic development = social progress = moral strength = an attractive centre for the whole Jewish people?

Quite simply, we will not be able to devote our resources to socio-economic progress, growth and development, to education, health and science without reducing the cost of the ongoing conflict. The conflict turns investors away, increases defence expenditures, undermines productivity and spurs inflation. We will not be able to invest in our human resources, stop the "brain drain" and promote our industrial and technological "flagships" — our exports, research and science — without providing them with the necessary resources and encouraging private and public initiative.

The foremost decision we face is in regard to the fundamental character of the state. Will we evolve into an apartheid-type regime, alienated from the international democratic community and the majority of the Jewish people that lives there? Or will we



understand that the solution lies in the exchange of territory for peace — in other words, in renewed partition within the framework of a peace settlement, with security arrangements? Will we continue to adhere to the outdated notion that we can dictate to the Palestinians who their representatives will be, or will we

come to understand that only they can determine this, of their own free will?

This is the fundamental issue we face and its resolution will determine our future character and development.

The murky waters of the status quo are eroding our capabilities every single day. The time

for decision is, therefore, now. Its postponement can only provide an illusion of escape and is a prescription for weakness, for paralysis.

The writer is Israeli minister of communications. The article is reprinted from the Jerusalem Post.

Bush under fire for China dissident flap, lack of purpose

By Christopher Hanson
Renter

WASHINGTON — President Bush sold himself to voters as an experienced statesman, but just six weeks after taking office he is under attack for both an alleged reckless gaffe in China and a wider lack of purpose.

Bush may be a China expert but his aides were accused of displaying ignorance of the country and committing a careless diplomatic blunder by inviting a Chinese dissident to a dinner honouring Peking's leaders last Sunday.

He returned home to find political experts saying he appeared to be squandering the opportunity to make his mark in the traditional "honeymoon" period granted a new president.

Bush also appears likely to lose his first major battle — a bruising contest to win Senate confirmation of John Tower as defence secretary — and become the first president to have a cabinet nominee turned down in his first year in office.

Critics say a flap that erupted after Chinese police barred astrophysicist Fang Lizhi from the U.S.-hosted dinner in Peking undermined the symbolic aim of Bush's visit — to display close Sino-U.S. ties three months before Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev makes an historic fence-mending visit to Peking.

"Imagine if a leader visiting Washington in the 1960s invited Jerry Rubin and Jane Fonda (radical opponents of President Johnson) to a dinner in honour of Johnson," former State Department official Paul Kreisberg said. "The Fang invitation was quite blundered... a reckless move," another China expert, Selig Harrison, told Reuters.

Bush touted his expertise on China, where he served as envoy in 1974-75, during his 1988 campaign for president.

He had billed his visit to China, after attending Emperor Hirohito's funeral in Tokyo, as a "homecoming," but the Fang incident seemed to sour good feelings.

Chinese Communist Party leader Zhao Ziyang used a chat with Bush to launch an attack on political dissidents and warned Washington not to interfere in China's internal affairs.

American China experts from across the political spectrum said in interviews that Bush should have met Fang in another setting to express U.S. commitment to human rights. Inviting him to the same gathering as a Chinese leader was unwise.

Had Fang been invited to meet Bush at a gathering of intellectuals with no local officials present "the Chinese wouldn't have blinked — but they quite clearly are irritated as hell," Kreisberg, of the Carnegie Endowment, said.

But Asia Watch, an independent organisation that monitors and promotes human rights, said Bush had lost an important opportunity to demonstrate his commitment to human rights.

It said in a statement that Bush

"only expressed regret over the incident. He listened to a stern warning from his Chinese hosts to stay away from pressure for political openness and said nothing."

The White House insists that Bush was firm enough.

Bush has won style points for the conciliatory tone of his public pronouncements and for reaching out to political foes.

But except for a proposal to shore up the country's troubled savings and loan industry, he has yet to present specific proposals or lay out strategy in either domestic or foreign affairs.

He has lagged well behind his predecessors in filling sub-cabinet jobs — making it difficult to put his own stamp on the federal bureaucracy. In some executive departments not a single Bush

appointee has taken office.

Even a surprise Tower victory would not remove the underlying complaints about Bush's first six weeks in office.

"He has to establish himself clearly as the president right from the outset and he has not done that," says former White House aide George Reedy, author of a respected study of presidential power.

Bush has missed congressional deadlines for decisions on missile development and the "Star Wars" anti-missile defence system, saying he wants to see the results of his policy reviews before making decisions.

He has so far failed to spell out policy for the Middle East, Central America or relations with Moscow — probably the three

biggest diplomatic challenges facing the United States.

There is a growing restiveness among America's European allies, who fear Bush has surrendered the diplomatic initiative to Moscow by failing to respond to Gorbachev's arms control proposals.

Washington was caught unaware by a recent peace package concluded by five Central American presidents and has yet to say how it plans to honour Bush's campaign pledge to stand by Nicaragua's contra rebels.

Army General Fred Woerner, commander in chief of the U.S. southern command, has publicly complained about "a vacuum in Washington" that has hamstrung U.S. policy.

The administration was also

surprised by the recent Middle East tour of Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze and sent mixed signals in response — praising Moscow for its interest in peace, but saying the Soviet role in the region should be limited.

Critics say Bush's eight years as vice president, diplomatic service, as U.N. ambassador and U.S. envoy to China, and a turn as director of the Central Intelligence Agency should have provided him with a foreign policy agenda.

"He had plenty of time to figure out what he was going to do," says Reedy.

Administration officials justify Bush's performance by noting he has been in office less than two months.

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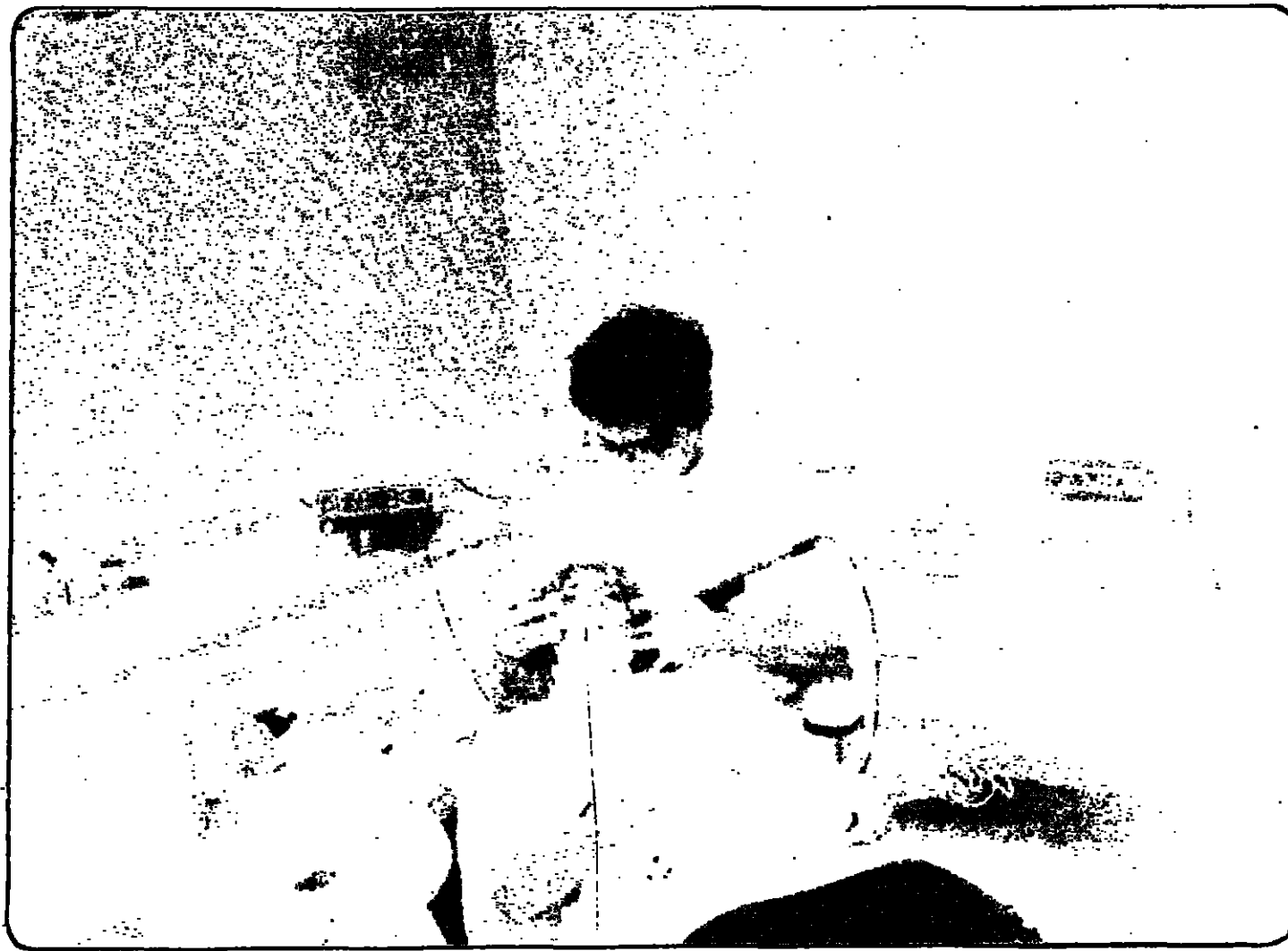
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Medical laser machines — researchers are developing new procedures which will allow the beam of light to perform operations that cannot be done with a scalpel.



Medical lasers go where no scalpel has gone before

By Catherine Arast
Reporter

BOSTON — Lasers, which are being used increasingly in medicine, could help treat heart disease, cancer, and even nearsightedness, industry analysts predict.

Researchers are developing new procedures using the intense beam of light to perform operations that cannot be done with a scalpel.

Lasers are already used to treat several eye diseases and remove everything from warts and haemorrhoids to excess tissue growths and tumours.

Industry analysts in the United States say that within five years some newer types of lasers could also treat wounds and aids, creating a billion-dollar market in the process.

"If the new applications being developed prove successful and

are generally accepted, and I think they will be, they could double the size of the laser market by the mid-1990s," said medical technology consultant Irving Arons.

Arons predicts that the worldwide medical laser market will grow from \$390 million last year to \$530 million by 1992, based on existing applications.

If lasers are approved to clear clogged coronary vessels — a procedure currently being tested by 24 companies in the United States — that market alone could be worth \$400 million a year, Arons said.

Health care

The proliferation of lasers will have an impact not only on their manufacturers but also on the health-care industry as a whole. Because laser treatment does not involve an incision, proce-

dures that now require a hospital stay of several days can often be done on an outpatient basis.

Doctors caution that lasers are not miracle workers, and the process of educating the medical profession to their use could be a lengthy one.

"There are still a number of unresolved biological issues," said Dr. Carmel Puliafito, an ophthalmologist who heads the laser research laboratory at Massachusetts eye and ear hospital, which puts out a brochure for the public called "laser myths."

"It's hard to know how far we will actually go with them," Puliafito said.

Still, he said, "there's no question about it, they are pretty fantastic things. There are really no negatives associated with their use in procedures so far."

The laser, which stands for light amplification by stimulated emission of radiation, was first developed in 1960 and has been widely used in ophthalmology and dermatology.

The laser beam can range in intensity and colour from ultraviolet to the visible to infrared. By changing the colour and intensity of a beam, its application can also be changed, from vaporising tissue to fusing it.

The American Society for Las-

ers and eye defects, expected to be the largest applications for lasers in the 1990s.

"A lot of the older lasers were just replacing traditional surgical methods," said David Muller, president of laser-maker summit technology. "We're trying to develop lasers that can do things that just can't be done with a scalpel."

Summit, based in Watertown, Massachusetts, is leading the way in developing excimer lasers, which emit no heat, for corrective eye surgery. The excimer laser cuts the chemical bonds which

hold tissue together, without damaging the surrounding tissue. Ophthalmologists are experimenting with using them to reshape the eye's cornea, a procedure called keratotomy, to restore normal vision.

The procedure, which takes less than a minute, can be done in a doctor's office. It will cost \$1,000 to \$2,000 in the United States, and would eliminate the need for glasses.

Summit received approval from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration to test the device on humans in early 1988 and last September the first successful excimer laser treatment on astig-

matism in the United States was performed in Kansas City. Five days after a 73-year-old woman's left eye was treated with the excimer laser for 45 seconds, her visual acuity improved to 20/25 from 20/100.

Muller expects to receive full FDA approval by the end of 1991 and estimates that five years after that, three million to five million patients a year will be receiving the treatment.

Trimedyn, in Tustin, California, has already won FDA approval to market its excimer lasers for use in unclogging leg arteries by blasting away the fatty tissue.

Blues music going to a higher level

By Peter Ramjing
Reporter

WASHINGTON — Blues singer-guitarist Robert Cray says the best way for him to fight depression is to pour his heart out on stage in front of thousands of people.

"When I get on the stage, it's my best time of day. If things bother me, man, I stand up and crank up my amplifier. I pull strings, I yell and scream and I get it all out of my system," said Cray.

His latest album, "Don't be afraid of the dark," follows his highly successful "strong persuader," which featured an innovative combination of rhythm and blues and pop-folkish tunes spread out over emotional blues lyrics.

"We don't play blues exactly like it was played before," Cray, 35, said.

"Ours is a combination of rhythm and blues with touches of rock and jazz in it too with the blues background. It's not that we try to change things, we're just playing what naturally comes out of us."

Cray said that the songs he and his band write are extensions of what they see and feel in everyday life.

"Don't be afraid of the dark" contains songs about drunkenness, infidelity and voyeurism.

"We write about all these things because we see it and we write about some things because it affects us," said Cray. "It's just part of who we are and how things are around us so we just talk about it. We're not ashamed to talk about anything."

It was in 1974 in Eugene, Oregon, that Cray and bassist Richard Cousins got together to form a group. They eventually added drummer David Olson and keyboardist Peter Boe during the early 1980s to form what is now called the Robert Cray Band.

As a young, impressionable musician, Cray was influenced by a variety of blues heavyweights. While developing his own act, he borrowed bits and pieces from others to incorporate into his own sets.

B.B. King

"If I did a B.B. King song, it

would start off basically the way he did it. But when it came time for solos, it has a little bit of everybody else in it. It wasn't a conscious thing, it just came out that way," Cray said.

Robert Cray was born in Georgia but a succession of family moves eventually took him to Munich, where his father was stationed with the army.

It was there in the early 1960s that Cray studied his first instrument, the piano. But he soon discovered the guitar.

"When we got back to Washington (in 1963), the Beatles came out and everybody got guitars. Pianos weren't hip. Everybody down the street had guitars and I wanted one too," said Cray, seated on a sofa in a hotel room, wearing black denim jeans and sneakers.

Cray, who is an avid fan of Seattle's professional baseball and basketball teams, saw his star rise with the release of the album "strong persuader," which "went platinum" and brought him domestic and international recognition.

A single off that LP, "Smoking gun," cracked the top 25 and another song, "right next door (because of me)," made the charts worldwide.

The LP earned the band 10 gold and platinum awards internationally, and brought them a 1988 Grammy Award.

Propelled by the popularity of "Strong persuader," two earlier Cray albums, "Bad influences" (1983) and "False accusations" (1983), made the charts at the same time in 1987.

This year the Robert Cray Band has been nominated for two Grammy Awards, one for best R-and-B album for "Don't be afraid of the dark," and a single off that LP, "Acting this way," in the R-and-B vocal, duo or group category.

Currently on a tour that will take him through the United States until June, when he'll start a month-long European tour, Cray will begin work in the autumn on a new album.

"I don't know what else I'd do if I had to quit this right now," Cray said. "I enjoy going to different countries and seeing different people, but the only problem is that airplanes are too slow."

Spice island's old Arab quarter reviving after years of neglect

By Didrikke Schanche
The Associated Press

ZANZIBAR — More than a century after merchants and slave traders built their lavish homes, shops and bazaars near Zanzibar's flourishing harbour, the labyrinthine old quarter is crumbling.

The area, called stone town, never ceased to be a commercial focal point for the spice island. Zanzibar's intertwined Arab, Asian and African heritage is embodied in the elaborately carved, brass-studded wooden doors and the lattice-work balconies hanging over dusty, narrow alleys.

Now, the government is trying to restore stone town to at least a semblance of its former glory through a process very similar to the gentrification of rundown neighbourhoods in England and the United States.

During 20 years of social and

economic upheaval, stone town was neglected and suffered severe deterioration. But Zanzibar hopes to reverse the decay with new money resulting from the government's 5-year-old policy of economic liberalisation and \$400,000 in technical assistance from the United Nations.

The four and five story structures made of coral and lime rise above narrow lanes that five times a day echo with the muezzin's call to prayer to Zanzibar's Muslims. Black-robed women sell roast maize and fried bread beneath the walls while elderly men sip coffee in tiny shops, paying scant attention to frolicking children, meandering shoppers and gawking tourists.

The effort is led by Ahmed Sheikh Ahmed, director of the stone town conservation and development authority. Most of its resources have gone into selling the buildings — 120 since 1985.

"The idea of selling the buildings is not to get money, the idea is to get people to look after the buildings," Ahmed said.

Stone town fell into neglect after rich Arab and Asian merchants fled the island following a bloody revolution by Zanzibar's black majority in 1964.

Many of their abandoned buildings were confiscated by the socialist government, which converted them into multi-family

dwelling for low-income families and newly arrived rural peasants. Rents were low or non-existent, but no funds were available for maintenance.

Ahmed said many of the dilapidated structures now pose a potential danger to tenants and shoppers in the quarter's busy alleys — seven buildings col-

lapsed during heavy rains in 1984, killing five people.

The four- and five-story structures made of coral and lime rise above narrow lanes that five times a day echo with the muezzin's call to prayer to Zanzibar's Muslims. Black-robed women sell roast maize and fried bread beneath the walls while elderly men sip coffee in tiny shops, paying scant attention to frolicking children, meandering shoppers and gawking tourists.

The town is home to an estimated 18,000 people and sits on a triangular piece of land that juts westward into the Indian Ocean south of Zanzibar's ancient harbour.

It is Zanzibar's historic seat of government and still houses most of the island's government offices, the main market, 40 per cent of the city's classrooms, and most of its places of worship, along with banks, cinemas, hotels and restaurants.



Tourists and gold in an Amazon river town

By Charles Lambelin
Reporter

LETICIA, Colombia — The man who put Leticia on the map is in jail and the drugs money that brought it boom times has dried up. Now townspeople are planning new routes to prosperity.

Greek-American George "Mike" Tsalkis, an adventurer who arrived in this remote Amazon River town in 1953 to trade in exotic animals, was sentenced last year in the United States to 27 years for drug trafficking.

Tsalkis, who had been appointed U.S. honorary consul in 1967, was arrested after 4.4 tons of cocaine were found hidden in hollowed planks he had sent from Leticia to Tampa, Florida.

An official report complains of the "bad name he gave to Leticia in the world of international tourism."

La Bonanza

But many local traders bemoan

the passing of "La Bonanza" — the prosperous years between 1978 and 1983 when cocaine money brought prosperity to this far-away corner, over which Colombia and Peru went to war in 1932-33.

The town, a 90-minute flight from Bogota, now has fewer than 15,000 inhabitants, 7,000 less than in 1983. It is in a free zone with money exchange booths every two metres. People walk easily to the nearby Brazilian town of Tabatinga.

Authorities and locals complain of an economic recession and are pinning hopes for recovery on tourism and a gold rush in the jungles of La Pedrera, 3,000 kilometres to the north.

In the past two years hundreds of miners have embarked on small double-deck boats for a four-day river trip down the Amazon and up its Caqueta tributary to La Pedrera. Some struck it rich, like Gilberto

Amies, who operates a river boat.

"I left with two friends, armed with a shovel, a pike and a long knife. We walked one hour and a half from the river bank to a mountain side and started digging," he said.

"After four months I came back to Leticia last December with 600 grammes of gold. It allowed me to buy the out-board engine. I might return there soon," he said.

But inflation is eating away at the miners' fortunes. Basic food like potatoes cost five times more than in other parts of Colombia.

Local authorities are dreaming of turning Leticia into a tourist paradise. The biggest group so far this year landed from Bogota last week — 90 middle-aged, pale-faced men and women from France sporting brand-new peaked caps and cameras.

200 Hotel rooms

Ricardo Lopez, head of the tourist office, said about 600 tourists visited Leticia monthly, not enough to fill the town's 200 hotel rooms.

Leticia offers river trips, visits to Indian hamlets, local cuisine — which includes tortoise stew, a steak of Voriga, an animal resembling a huge rat, or danta, a kind of jungle wildpig — and a potent local drink called chuchuwasa, made from a tree bark.

Tourists travel the mile-wide Amazon upstream in big canoes, dodging huge floating tree trunks and banks of water hyacinths, until they reach monkey island, Tsalkis's pet project.

The island, 45 kilometres west of Leticia and flooded three months a year, is home to between 2,000 and 10,000 frar monkeys.

The monkeys were used by Bogota Doctor Manuel Elkin

Patarroyo to test his vaccine against malaria, a discovery saluted by the medical world as one of the most important of recent years.

Tsalkis also built two hotels, a tourist company and was running small planes linking Leticia to jungle locations.

After his arrival in Leticia 36 years ago he became known as a leading dealer in exotic animals, birds from Brazil and monkeys for medical experiments to dozens of U.S. universities.

With Tsalkis behind bars, the most colourful character in this land of adventurers is a Colombian tourist guide named Kapax, who cultivates Tarzan's looks and advertises himself posing with a giant anaconda snake around his shoulders.

Tourists fly back home with such handicrafts as blow-guns and bright feather headgear, and snapshots of Kapax and his anaconda.

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GOLD STEEL
Performances: 3:30, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30

Cinema
PLAZA
Tel: 677420
ZAPPED!
Performances: 3:30, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30

Soviets join in oil output cuts

MOSCOW (AP) — The Soviet Union will cut oil exports by about five per cent in the first half of this year, TASS reported Friday. The move is part of a concerted effort by non-OPEC producers, being joined for the first time by the Soviets, to shore up world oil prices by cutting or freezing exports.

TASS, the official Soviet news agency, quoted Vladimir Arutyunyan, chairman of the state organisation charged with exporting petroleum, as saying: "Soviet oil exports for freely convertible currency will be reduced approximately by five per cent in the first six months of 1989, as against the same period of 1988."

According to Western estimates, the Soviets now export about 1.8 million barrels of oil a day. A five per cent reduction would mean a cut of 90,000 barrels daily in export sales.

TASS said Arutyunyan made the statement in response to a question from TASS about "Soviet oil export plans for the near future." He is the chairman of the Soyuzneftexport all-union foreign trade association, which markets Soviet petroleum products abroad.

Last week, oil producers who are not members of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) met in London to decide whether to take common action.

At the end of the meeting, a majority of the countries involved pledged to freeze or reduce their exports during the second quarter of 1989 in an attempt to shore up world oil prices.

The Soviet Union reportedly told the other countries that it wasn't sure that it would participate, but that if it did, it would notify the other nations Friday. The TASS dispatch quoting Arutyunyan was distributed shortly after 11 p.m. Moscow time (2000 GMT).

The announced cut in production showed a change in Soviet thinking about oil exports that some Western analysts say may be due to severe Soviet problems in oil production or export.

In November, the deputy oil minister, Vladimir Filanovsky,

said the country planned to continue increasing exports in the face of falling world prices because it needed the foreign currency.

"A continued increase in oil output is encouraged by the falling oil world market prices," Filanovsky was quoted as telling TASS on Nov. 2.

"In order to maintain the Soviet Union's foreign trade balance, the country has to step up its oil exports to the world market, as oil accounts for 75 per cent of its total foreign cash earnings," he said.

The Soviet Union is in the midst of a economic modernisation drive, championed by President Mikhail Gorbachev, that requires increasing amounts of foreign currency to buy Western technology.

Filanovsky said the government intended for workers to produce 626 million tonnes of oil and gas condensate in 1988. The actual yearly production figure, 624 million tonnes, fell somewhat short of that target.

The Soviet oil production target for 1990 is 635 million tonnes and for the year 2000, 650 million tonnes.

Egypt decrees five per cent reduction

Earlier Friday, Egypt decided to cut its oil exports by five per cent from April to June as part of a joint international effort to reduce the glut on the world market and shore up prices.

Oil Minister Abdul Hadi Kandil announced Egypt's "major sacrifice" in a press release. He said the move means Egyptian exports will average 24,000 fewer barrels daily.

Egypt, which is outside OPEC, currently produces between 870,000-900,000 barrels a day, exporting about half that and consuming the rest domestically. Kandil's statement expressed hope that all oil exporters will "comply with respective agreements and adhere to the agreed quotas."

An oil ministry source said that was a two-pronged appeal, to OPEC's 13 members not to over-produce and to independent exporters to stick to their declared export cuts. The decision was made in light of recommendations made Feb. 21 at a London meeting of oil experts from non-OPEC producing countries.

"Egypt will contribute to the efforts which aim at monitoring the evolution of the market situation as well as compliance by all oil exporters with the agreement in a concerted way," he said.

In addition to Egypt, last month's meeting grouped experts from Mexico, China, Oman, Malaysia, Angola and Colombia. Observers attended from the Soviet Union, North Yemen, Norway, the U.S. state Alaska and the Canadian province Alberta.

Oman's government announced Wednesday a five per cent cut in oil production, also in line with the London meeting.

Subroto predicts faster process with cooperation

OPEC's Secretary-General Subroto said in an interview published Friday that the 13-member group was making headway in efforts to stabilise oil prices, but that the process would move faster with cooperation from non-OPEC producers.

"I am totally convinced we shall reach the \$18 per barrel price," Subroto told the United Arab Emirates newspaper Al Itihad.

He predicted reaching the target price for oil by the end of the year.

"But if the non-OPEC oil producers helped, we will reach this target within a few months," Subroto said.

The group has slashed rampant output by its member states by three-four million barrels and set an aggregate production ceiling of 18.5 million barrels a day for the first six months of 1989 to raise oil prices.

OPEC's ministerial council meets for its regular bi-annual sessions in June in Vienna and Subroto said that the meeting will take steps to enhance the situation. He did not elaborate.

Subroto said that adherence to the group's production and pricing policy would maintain the upward trend.

Subroto said that the effect of reductions by producers outside the group may not affect the oil market but "the political and psychological effect on cooperation with OPEC members will be great."

Bahrain raises interest rates on deposits

BAHRAIN (R) — Bahrain has raised its interest rate ceilings on deposits in the wake of sharp rises in international rates, a spokesman for the Bahrain Monetary Agency (BMA) said Saturday.

The BMA told the island's 19 commercial banks it would raise the maximum recommended rates for maturities of up to six months by one percentage point effective March 1, the spokesman said.

There will be no limit on yields

for maturities of over six months duration. The spokesman said the step, which applies only to private customers, was aimed at stemming a possible outflow of dinars into higher-yielding dollar deposits.

"These changes are designed to increase banks' scope for funding following recent increases in international interest rates," the BMA spokesman said.

The ceiling for maturities of less than three months was raised to seven per cent from six while that on three to six months was

increased to 7½ per cent from 6½.

The maximum level for maturities of over six months was abolished.

Ceilings on certificates of deposit (CD's) for more than 30,000 dinars were increased by the same amount, with the level for less than three months CD's rising to 7½ per cent from 6½ and three to six months to eight per cent from seven.

Yields on CD maturities of over six months are subject to negotiation between banks and

customers. The BMA statement clarifies reports published in Bahrain's daily Akbar Al Khaleej newspaper Friday.

Bankers said they welcomed the move and had already begun to raise interest rates on demand and savings accounts.

"The move is a natural one which will help narrow the gap between dinar and dollar interest rates," Hassan Juma, general manager of the National Bank of Bahrain said.

Japan's current account surplus drops 50%

TOKYO (AP) — Higher oil prices helped cut Japan's current account surplus in January to \$1.734 billion, 50 per cent smaller than the previous January and 81 per cent less than December, the finance ministry said Friday.

January was the second month in a row that the current account surplus fell below its year-earlier level. In January 1988 it registered \$3.505 billion, while in December it was \$9.274 billion.

The current account, the broadest measure of a nation's international financial transactions, includes merchandise trade, tourism, investment and other monetary flows.

The ministry said Japan's trade surplus also declined in January, falling to \$4.174 billion from \$4.557 billion a year earlier and \$10.932 billion in December.

It was the first monthly decline in the trade surplus in four months, easing concerns among government officials that efforts to reduce Japan's trade imbalance may have lost effect.

After falling steadily through last summer, Japan's trade surplus has grown in recent months as strong overseas demand for Japanese products pushed up exports, and low crude oil prices led to a drop in imports.

However, higher world oil prices in January helped boost imports during January, the officials said. Japan must import most of its energy sources.

Imports in January totalled \$14.607 billion, up 17.0 per cent from a year earlier and 0.1 per cent from December.

Ministry officials said imports of manufactured goods were brisk, reflecting strong domestic demand caused by Japan's continuing economic growth.

Exports in January increased 10.2 per cent to \$18.781 billion from a year earlier but declined 26.5 per cent from December.

Ministry officials noted that the pace of export growth has slowed in recent months, from 18.8 per cent in November and 11.5 per cent in December. They called this an encouraging sign for attempts to reduce the trade surplus.

Exports of semiconductors, cars and business machines were strong, the officials said.

Both exports and imports in the current account balance are measured when contracts are settled, and are different from customs-clearance trade statistics the ministry announces separately each month.

The ministry announcement did not include breakdowns of trade figures by country or region.

Meanwhile, Japan has decided to alter its monitoring of overseas computer chip prices, one of the key provisions of a semiconductor agreement between it and the United States, an official has

said. Under the pact, reached in 1985, Japan pledged it would monitor the prices of Japanese memory chips sold in third countries as a means of discouraging their resale in the United States at cheap prices.

The agreement resulted from a series of complaints by U.S. semiconductor makers that Japanese companies had sold memory chips in the United States below their fair market price, a practice known as dumping.

The monitoring provision has been sharply criticised by European countries, which charged it regulated prices in other nations and therefore violated the rules

of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), an international trade organisation. In a ruling last March, the GATT said the European complaint was valid.

"The third-country monitoring is not consistent with the GATT, so we will have to modify the agreement," said Taiso Nakatani, an official in the ministry of international trade and industry.

AMMAN EXCHANGE RATES

Saturday, March 4, 1989 Central Bank official rates					
Buy	Sell				
U.S. dollar	538.0	542.0	Japanese yen (for 100)	420.0	424.8
Pound Sterling	924.3	933.3	Deutsche mark	258.7	260.9
Deutsche mark	291.6	294.6	Swedish crown	85.0	85.7
Swiss franc	341.2	343.9	Italian lira (for 100)	39.6	39.9
French franc	85.9	86.6	Belgian franc (for 10)	139.2	140.3

Weekly Amman Financial Market trading

AMMAN (J.T.) — The following table summarises trading activities at the Amman Financial Market during the week starting Saturday, Feb. 25, '89 and ending Wednesday March 1, '89. (Figures in Jordanian dinars)

Name of company	Number of shares	Volume of trade	Opening price	Closing price	Per value
Banking and financial institutions					
Industrial Development Bank	1100	1810	1.650	1.640	1.000
Petra Bank	161	422	2.600	2.620	1.000
Jordan Islamic Bank	1867	3861	2.050	2.040	1.000
Jordan Kuwait Bank	705	1022	1.470	1.460	1.000
Jordan Gulf Bank	24562	31761	1.280	1.290	1.000
Housing Bank	11501	21872	2.000	1.850	1.000
Arab Bank Investment Bank	—	—	—	—	1.000
Cairo Amman Bank	—	—	—	—	5.000
Bank of Jordan	1249	19466	15.600	15.350	5.000
Arab Bank	2600	405178	160.100	153.500	10.000
Jordan National Bank	15002	40309	2.710	2.600	1.000
Jordan Finance House for Development	—	—	—	—	1.000
Jordan Investment and Finance Corporation	1781	4307	2.730	2.570	1.000
Finance and Credit Corporation	—	—	—	—	1.000
National Financial Investments	3140	6474	2.110	2.000	1.000
National Portfolio Securities	37567	36905	1.000	0.960	1.000
Arab Finance Corporation (Jordan)	—	—	—	—	1.000
Jordan Securities Corporation	—	—	—	—	1.000
Real Estate Financing Corporation	135	2363	17.750	17.500	2.000
Al Mashrek Exchange	—	—	—	—	10.000
Middle East Exchange	—	—	—	—	1.000
Insurance and reinsurance					
Jordan French Insurance	—	—	—	—	1.000
REPCO Life Insurance	—	—	—	—	1.000
Jordan Insurance	7552	28819	3.880	3.750	1.000
Arab Life and Accident Insurance	—	—	—	—	1.000
Yarmouk Insurance and Reinsurance	290	392	1.380	1.350	1.000
Holy Land Insurance	—	—	—	—	1.000
Philadelphia Insurance	2000	2325	1.160	1.140	1.000
Arab Union International Insurance	—	—	—	—	1.000
Jerusalem Insurance	—	—	—	—	1.000
Jordan Gulf Insurance	—	—	—	—	1.000
General Arabia Insurance	—	—	—	—	1.000
Middle East Insurance	200	409	2.000	2.000	10.000
National Ahliya Insurance	—	—	—	—	1.000
Arab Belgian Insurance and Reinsurance	—	—	—	—	1.000
United Insurance	—	—	—	—	1.000
Services and industries					
General Investments	478	386	0.800	0.810	1.000
Inna for Investment and Financial Facilities	28839	23616	0.850	0.810	1.000
Dares for Housing and Investment	26156	17269	0.670	0.650	1.000
Real Estate Investment (Agarco)	52150	19519	0.390	0.380	1.000
Jordan Gulf Real Estate Investment	—	—	—	—	1.000
Jordan Leasing Corporation	58000	9790	0.680	0.670	1.000
Petra Enterprises and Leasing Equipments	27530	7997	0.790	0.790	1.000
Equipment Leasing & Maintenance/Ta'ceero	—	—	—	—	1.000
International Contracting & Investment	13104	21576	1.700	1.630	1.000
Jordanian Electric Power	—	—	—	—	1.000
Irbid District Electricity	—	—	—	—	1.000
Arab International Hotels	64694	48433	0.770	0.750	1.000
Hotels and Tourism	—	—	—	—	1.000
United Middle East and Commodore Hotels	—	—	—	—	1.000
Garage Owners Federation Office	—	—	—	—	1.000
Jordan National Shipping Lines	67505	76578	1.130	1.090	1.000
Jordan Press Foundation	—	—	—	—	1.000
Jordan Press and Publishing	—	—	—	—	1.000
Dar Al Shaab Press, Printing and Publishing	88300	54132	0.570	0.600	1.000
Jordan Dairy	20920	20783	1.000	0.980	1.000
Arab Pharmaceutical Manufacturing	52367	169956	3.290	3.180	1.000
Intermediate Petrochemical Industries	224219	373168	1.710	1.660	1.000
Jordan Phosphate Mines	1532	5974	3.820	3.850	1.000
Industrial Commercial and Agricultural (Inag)	8549	13354	1.600	1.530	1.000
Arab Chemical Detergent Industries	6806	30484	4.350	4.750	1.000
Jordan Kuwait for Agricultural Products	—	—	—	—	1.000
Jordan Sweets and Chocolate Manufacturing	—	—	—	—	1.000
Aladdin Industries	33600	62210	1.890	1.860	1.000
Arab Aluminium Manufacturing	14777	30921	2.180	2.100	1.000
Jordan Worsteds Mills	721	3853	5.600	5.400	1.000
Jordan Ceramics	29429	59969	2.070	2.000	1.000
Chemical Industries	8300	22600	2.800	2.580	1.000
Jordan Industries and Match (JIMCO)	28800	20800	0.760	0.730	1.000
Dar Al Dawa for Development and Investment	4330	10411	2.420	2.340	1.000
National Steel Industries	38528	112223	3.140	2.870	1.000
Universal Chemical Industries	143026	440074	3.010	2.900	1.000
General Mining	775	1521	1.780	2.130	1.000
Jordan Petroleum Refinery	8735	75341	8.750	8.600	1.000
Jordan Lime & Brick	51500	11330	0.220	0.220	1.000
National Industries	10730	10544	0.950	1.020	1.000
Arab Paper Converting and Trading	2650	1025	0.430	0.380	1.000
Arab Investment and International Trade	2457	1400	0.570	0.570	1.000
Jordan Wooden Industries (JWICO)	24507	41725	1.650	1.740	1.000
Livestock and Poultry	3500	2595	0.750	0.750	1.000
Jordan Pipes Manufacturing	8970	16702	1.880	1.750	1.000
Rafia Industrial for Plastic Bags	200	328	1.520	1.680	1.000
Jordan Paper and Carboard	250	938	3.950	3.750	1.000
Jordan Rockwool Industries	69250	75157	1.160	1.070	1.000
Trans-Jordan Minerals Research	—	—	—	—	1.000
Jordan Himeh Mineral	—	—	—	—	1.000
Oryent Dry Batteries Factory	—	—	—	—	1.000
Woolen Industries	6005	6122	1.010	1.020	1.000
Jordan Tanning	—	—	—	—	1.000
Jordan Printing and Packaging	—	—	—	—	1.000
Jordan Tobacco and Cigarette	—	—	—	—	1.000
Mas Industries	—	—	—	—	1.000
Arab Center for Pharmaceuticals & Chemicals	—	—	—	—	1.000
National Cable & Wire Manufacturing	70220	110733	1.610	1.570	1.000
Jordan Spinning & Weaving	57691	65872	1.190	1.140	1.000
Jordan Sulpho Chemicals	55500	163463	3.050	2.860	1.000
Jordan Cement Factories	40543	49171	1.220	1.180	1.000
Jordan Glass Industries	11500	12354	1.100	1.050	1.000
Grand total	1,579,180	2,913,457			

Credit Suisse announces record '88 profits, major reorganisation

ZURICH (R) — Switzerland's third largest bank, Credit Suisse, Friday reported record 1988 net profits and announced a major reorganisation to boost its growth prospects.

Chief executive Robert Jeker angrily denied a Swiss prosecutor's allegations that the bank had been involved in laundering drugs money, but he said it might curtail trading in banknotes as a result.

The bank's net profit rose 7.6 per cent to 592 million Swiss francs (\$77 million). Total assets were up nearly six per cent at 113 billion francs (\$72 billion).

"The fact that fears of a recession have not been borne out... has helped our bank to achieve a level of performance that has surpassed our expectations," Jeker told a news conference.

Strict cost control and a strong increase in lending made up for lower commissions on share trading after the October 1987 crash of world stock markets.

Swiss banks hold huge hidden reserves and analysts say real profits are much higher than those they disclose.

Credit Suisse (C.S.) Chairman Rainer Gut said it planned to make its sister company C.S. Holding the parent for the entire group, heading an international organisation offering a wide range of banking and business services.

Credit Suisse shareholders may exchange their current shares for shares in C.S. Holding and will also be invited to buy new shares on favourable terms.

Gut said the new structure would be simpler and would create an improved basis for future growth.

"Throughout the 1990s and beyond, we aim to be among the few major corporations in the world that can boast a strong capital base, a prime quality rating and a truly global operation," he asserted.

Under the new structure, C.S. Holding will have assets of 9.35 billion

NBA Roundup

NEW YORK (AP) — Here's a roundup of National Basketball Association games Friday night:

Hawks 133, Hornets 109

Atlanta (AP) — Dominique Wilkins scored 35 points, including six slam dunks, before sitting out the final 16 minutes as the Atlanta Hawks crushed the Charlotte Hornets 133-109.

Atlanta never trailed, breaking a 2-2 tie on a layup by Glenn Rivers and going on to its eighth victory in 10 games since the NBA's all-star break.

Jazz 107, Heat 95

MIAMI (AP) — Karl Malone scored 15 of his 34 points in the third quarter as Utah broke open a close game. After scoring the last five points of the first half to lead 45-40, the Jazz scored the first eight points of the second half. Miami never got closer than eight points thereafter.

Malone, the NBA's second leading scorer with a 29.2 average, hit his stride after 13 first-half points.

Celtics 107, Mavericks 106

BOSTON (AP) — Dennis Johnson hit a 3-point shot and a driving layup in the last two minutes to key Boston's fifth victory in its last six games. The Mavericks are winless in nine games in Boston, the only city where they haven't won.

Johnson, who had made just four of 32 shots from 3-point range this season, sank his desperation 3-pointer with the time almost run out.

Pistons 96, Cavaliers 90

AUBURN HILLS, Michi-

gan (AP) — Isiah Thomas made two baskets to key a decisive 6-0 burst in the fourth quarter and Joe Dumars scored all 10 of his points in the final 5:10 to decide a game between the NBA's top two teams.

It was Detroit's first victory in four meetings with the Cavaliers this season and lifted the Pistons, 38-16 within four games of first-place Cleveland, 43-13, in the central division.

Bulls 102, Bucks 96

CHICAGO (AP) — Michael Jordan scored 11 of his 28 points during a 19-9 spurt late in the fourth quarter and Chicago held on to defeat Milwaukee for the fifth straight time this season.

The Bulls are 14-3 against Milwaukee over the last three years and have won 12 of the last 13 meetings.

Supersonics 118, Rockets 108

SEATTLE (AP) — Seattle's Dale Ellis scored 13 of his 39 points in the fourth quarter and Alkeem Olajuwon and Eric "Sleepy" Floyd, two of Houston's top three scorers, were ejected as the Rockets suffered their seventh consecutive loss.

Olajuwon, who scored 12 points, half his per-game average, was ejected with 8:30 left after picking up his second technical foul in a scuffle with Seattle's Michael Cage. "The Sonics led at the time 89-84."

Olajuwon got his first technical during a second-period scuffle with Cage. Floyd was ejected with 1:32 left in the first half for arguing a foul call.



Bronzebeast: current world number one Ivan Lendl went down yesterday to the 'Big Mac' on his comeback.

McEnroe beats Lendl

DALLAS (R) — John McEnroe beat arch-rival Ivan Lendl for the first time in more than three years Friday in a four-hour semifinal match at the world championship tennis (WCT) finals.

McEnroe knocked the world number one out of the \$685,000 tournament 6-7 (3-7), 7-5 (6-4), 6-2, 7-5 and will meet his fellow American Brad Gilbert in the final Saturday.

"It was a great victory for me," said McEnroe, ranked sixth in the world.

"It means a lot to beat him in a certified match. We have gone in cycles and hopefully this one will get me going. I am elated I won."

Lendl lost his temper during the match, costing him three code violations from British professional umpire Gerry Armstrong. They include a point penalty and a game penalty which brought him within one violation of being defaulted.

"I am not upset at the way I behaved because I did nothing wrong," said Lendl.

McEnroe beat Lendl for the

first time in three-and-a-half years and for the first time in five matches to level their career contest at 15 wins each.

Lendl started the match superbly to lead by a set and 4-2, but McEnroe seized on a concentration lapse from Lendl in the vital seventh game of the second set to keep his chances alive by winning four consecutive games.

McEnroe said he got himself pumped up through the support of the crowd of 16,123, but stayed in touch with the match by reminding himself of their encounter at the Australian Open in January which Lendl won in straight sets.

"Things were looking bad, but I hung in," said McEnroe.

In the final, with the winner getting \$200,000 and the runner-up \$100,000, McEnroe will face Gilbert for the 12th time. McEnroe has lost to him only once.

Gilbert, who came into the tournament as an alternate to replace Boris Becker of West Germany, defeated Sweden's Mikael Pernfors Thursday.

Sheffield Wednesday eases relegation fears

LONDON (Agencies) Sheffield Wednesday eased their relegation worries Saturday when they beat fellow-strugglers Charlton 3-1 in the only First Division soccer match to be played in England.

Late goals from Icelandic international Siggi Jonsson and Irish international Tony Galvin secured a decisive victory — Wednesday's first at home since October and first anywhere since Ron Atkinson took over as manager following his dismissal by Atletico Madrid last month.

David Hirst took advantage of a defensive error to put Wednesday ahead after 28 minutes, but Paul Williams levelled two minutes later with his 15th goal of the season.

Jonsson and Galvin capped a period of steady Wednesday pressure with the decisive strikes which brought their first goals of the season.

Wednesday's win did not affect the positions at the bottom of the First Division. Wednesday remained 18th but now level with 17th-placed Charlton and 16th-placed Queen's Park Rangers on 27 points.

Newcastle and West Ham, 19th and last, did not play Saturday when all other first division matches were postponed to assist England's preparations for a World Cup qualifying match in Albania Wednesday.

In the Second Division, Leaders Chelsea were also without a match, but second-placed Manchester City failed to take advantage — they were beaten 1-0 by fourth-placed Watford.

STANDINGS

LONDON — English Football League tables after matches played Saturday.

	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
Arsenal	27	16	7	4	52	25	55
Norwich	26	14	8	4	39	28	50
Millwall	26	12	7	7	38	30	43
Coventry	26	11	7	8	34	26	40
Manchester United	25	10	9	6	35	21	39
Liverpool	24	10	9	5	32	20	39
Nottingham Forest	24	9	11	4	34	26	38
Derby	25	11	5	9	29	24	38
Wimbledon	25	11	5	9	32	30	38
Tottenham	27	9	9	9	40	37	36
Everton	25	8	9	8	31	29	33
Middlesbrough	26	8	7	11	31	39	31
Aston Villa	27	7	9	11	35	42	30
Luton	25	7	8	10	27	31	29
Southampton	26	6	10	10	37	49	28
Queen's Park Rangers	26	6	9	11	24	24	27
Charlton	27	6	9	12	29	41	27
Sheffield Wednesday	26	6	9	11	22	36	27
Necastle	25	5	7	13	22	44	22
West Ham	24	4	6	14	20	41	18

Records crumble in Budapest

Little luck: bronze for a rookie

BUDAPEST, Hungary (AP) — For his first track meet overseas, Kevin Little was just seeking to gain some experience at the World Indoor championships.

He is going back to the United States with a bronze medal from the 200-metre dash, something a lot of people, including Little, didn't expect.

The 20-year-old Drake University junior was a little-known sprinter on the American squad before the world championships, looking toward National Collegiate Athletic Association championships next week.

But after a no-show and a disqualification, Little became a world medalist.

"I just came here to run well," he said.

Little suddenly became the American team's top — and only — 200-metre runner when Floyd Heard failed to show up for the morning heat.

"I didn't really know about it until this morning," Little said. "And I don't understand the situation."

At the special 200 trials in the United States, Little came in second behind Floyd Heard.

But Heard never appeared to run for the United States here, apparently kept home by coach and agent Joe Douglas.

Being the only American in a race that is usually an American strength didn't bother Little.

"I felt really relaxed and didn't put any pressure on myself. I knew if I ran up to my capabilities, I would be competitive," Little said.

After finishing the final in fourth position, he suddenly became a bronze medalist when Brazilian Robson Da Silva was disqualified for stepping out of his lane after coming in second.

Britain's John Regis won the 200 in 20.54, while Little ran 21.12, behind Britain's Ade Mafe.

BUDAPEST, Hungary (AP) — Roger Kingdom, Neli Cooman and John Regis shattered meet records in winning the first three gold medals of the world indoor track and field championships Friday, and the least-known member of the U.S. team unexpectedly earned a bronze after the disqualification of a big-name foe.

The U.S. team collected three medals in the opening program of the three-day championships, after an ominous start when two top sprinters failed to show up.

The biggest surprise came in the men's 200-metre dash when Regis sped to victory in 20.54 seconds, erasing the meet record of 20.73 set by American Kirk Baptiste two years ago in the first world championships at Indianapolis.

Brazil's Robson Da Silva, the world record-holder for 300 metres, finished second, but was disqualified for running out of his lane.

The powerful Kingdom, the 1984 and 1988 Olympic champion in the men's 110-metre high hurdles, proved why he is no. 1 in the world, skimming to victory in the 60-metre hurdles in 7.43. That smashed the record of 7.46 set by fellow American Greg Foster in the semifinals at Indianapolis two years ago.

Foster collided with Canadian Mark McKoy in the final there, and Tonia Campbell, also of the United States, won in 7.51.

This time Campbell, suffering from tendonitis, finished last in the six-man field.

Britain's Colin Jackson also went under the previous meet record, finished second in 7.45, and Igor Kazanov of the Soviet Union took third in 7.59.

Jackson was the fastest out of the blocks and led until the final hurdle, when Kingdom caught him.

Both clobbered the final hurdle, but the stronger Kingdom was able to outrun Jackson to the finish line.

"I'm so accustomed to getting into collisions with hurdles, I was able to power off the last hurdle and run a little faster than he (Jackson) did to the tape," Kingdom said.

Cooman, the world record-hol-

der and five-time European champion in the women's 60-metre dash, won her second world indoor title, leading all the way and clocking 7.05.

That broke the mark of 7.08 that she and Angella Issajenko of Canada ran in the 1987 final, but was short of Cooman's world record of 7.00.

Cooman, who knelt on the track and prayed after her victory and cried on the medal stand, ran despite an ailing right hip, an injury she suffered two weeks before the championships, just as she had done two years ago.

"I was scared to start, because I was injured... and I thought my final would have to be very good," Cooman said.

She led all the way but had to hold off a strong challenge by Gwen Torrence, who finished second in 7.07, breaking the American record for the second time Friday. Torrence, who had a three-year unbeaten streak before losing two weeks ago, had run 7.10 in the semifinals, erasing the record of 7.13 set by Alice Brown last Sunday.

Jamaica's Merlene Ottey was third in 7.10.

The absences of Heard and Witherspoon upset the U.S. coaching staff and athletes.

"I feel if the athlete does not have plans to be in attendance, it's unfair for the next guy in line" who could have competed, said U.S. men's coach Bill Moultrie.

Douglas kept many of his outstanding athletes, including Olympic gold medalists Carl Lewis, Joe DeLoach and Steve Lewis, out of the U.S. championships, then apparently took Heard and Witherspoon out of the world championships.

Meanwhile, Soviets Rodion Gataullin and Grigory Egerov, the Olympic silver and bronze medalists, respectively, and Americans Billy Olson and Joe Dial, the U.S. indoor and outdoor record-holders, respectively, led the advance into Saturday's pole vault final. Each cleared 17 feet, 10½ inches (5.45 metres) in qualifying.

Fourteen of the 15 competitors in the men's high jump qualifying moved into Saturday's final, the exception being American Tom McCants.

... and those that were left behind

BUDAPEST, Hungary (AP) — One American sprinter skipped his race and another was nowhere to be found at the world indoor track and field championships Friday, further weakening a U.S. team already missing several stars.

At least one teammate said the problem was money and pointed the finger at agent Joe Douglas, who kept three other stars, Carl Lewis, Steve Lewis and Joe DeLoach, out of the U.S. trials last week and therefore out of the world championships.

Floyd Heard's failure to show up Friday morning for the qualifying heats of the 200 metres left his teammates and coaches confused and worried that he had a problem getting to the event from a meet Tuesday in southern Spain.

Those teammates later learned Heard was in Houston.

Mark Witherspoon, scheduled to run Sunday in the 60-metre dash, also had not joined the team by Friday evening and U.S. officials said they did not expect him in Budapest.

Douglas, the agent for Heard and Witherspoon, had told U.S. officials last weekend the sprinters would return home to Houston from Spain, but the American officials believed arrangements had been made for them to attend the Budapest meet.

Ollan Cassell, executive director of the athletics congress that oversees American track and field, said he talked with Douglas last weekend in Spain about Heard and Witherspoon, and that he was given no reason to believe the sprinters would skip the world championships.

"Joe (Douglas) has a strong track club and there's a lot of unity among the guys," said Stanley Floyd, the other American entered in the 60-metre dash. "If Joe says 'we're not going,' they don't go."

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN AND OMAR SHARIF
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WHICH FINESSE?

East-West vulnerable. North deals.

NORTH

♠ K J 4

♥ K J 2

♦ J 8 6 3

♣ A Q 6

EAST

♠ 9 7

♥ Q 10 9 4

♦ A K 3

♣ Q 10 9 5

SOUTH

♠ A Q 10 8 5 3

♥ A 6

♦ 4 2

♣ 10 5 4

The bidding:

North East South West

1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass

1 NT Pass 3 ♠ Pass

4 ♠ Pass Pass Pass

Opening lead: King of ♠

We'll remember the first time we took a winning finesse—steady stuff, indeed. But the first time we managed to avoid taking a finesse in favor of some other line is forever etched in our memory. That is when we realized that we had a talent for the game.

We like South's jump rebid of three spades. He needed some help from North if his hand were going to stretch to 10 tricks. North had an absolute maximum for his bidding.

so he ventured on to four spades. However, with a known source of tricks and stoppers in all suits, three no trump would have been wiser. Nine tricks were there for the taking.

The defenders started with three rounds of diamonds, declarer ruffing the last of these. He had nine fast tricks and the 10th could come from a finesse in either hearts or clubs. Now we know many players who would try both and bemoan their fate when both lost and they went down a trick. Others would look for the sure-trick line that exists, as the cards lie.

Declarer should draw two rounds of trumps, ending in dummy. Next comes the jack of diamonds and, when East produces the queen, declarer should discard a club instead of ruffing. Assuming trumps are 2-2, as they were, East is employed.

Whether he leads a club or a heart, he must give declarer a free finesse. What if trumps are 3-1? If East is short in trumps and declarer plays as above, West can ruff to break up the endplay. Now declarer has to guess which, if either, finesse will succeed. And if East has three trumps, he has a safe exit card. So, with any 3-1 trump division, declarer has to ruff the fourth diamond and fall back on the two finessses.

Stenmark passing the torch to Eriksson

ASPEN (AP) — Tired of skiing and slowed by leg and back problems after 16 illustrious seasons of racing, Ingemar Stenmark had one more dramatic moment in his 32-year-old body.

Now, he's prepared to pass the torch to countryman Lars Boerje Eriksson.

Stenmark broke a two-year victory drought Sunday, with a blistering second run to overtake Luxembourg's Marc Girardelli and capture a men's world cup giant slalom in what was his final race in North America.

The incomparable Swede raised his victory total to 86 — a figure that is considered unassail-

able. By contrast, his closest rival is Girardelli, with 27 race victories.

In the finish area, other racers lined up to congratulate Stenmark in an emotional tribute to the greatest technical skier the sport has ever known.

"All year there hasn't been a racer who wasn't cheering for him to win one more time," said Kyle Wieche of Connecticut, who managed a breakthrough of his own, placing seventh.

Swedish coach Herman Nögler said Stenmark's retirement after races next month in Japan "is a sad feeling. Part of my life is ending."

Palestine to formally apply to join FIFA

RIYADH (R) — Joao Havelange, President of World soccer's governing body, said he had invited the Palestinian Football Association (PFA) to meet him for talks on membership of the International Football Federation (FIFA).

Havelange told a news conference Thursday he had had an informal meeting with PFA officials attending the World Youth championship here.

"I've invited the Palestinian Football Association to visit me when I am next in our Swiss headquarters in Zurich for formal talks on membership," he said.

"FIFA will be happy to give the Palestinian Football Association all the necessary information we give prospective members in their bid to seek membership," he added.

FIFA spokesman Guido Tog-

nomi said the informal meeting had been the Palestinians' first approach to the federation for information on eligibility for membership.

Palestinian teams have for several years played against club sides in the Arab World.

Last November, the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) proclaimed an independent Palestinian state and in January an amateur squad calling itself the Palestinian national soccer team toured Italy and France.

The tour was aimed partly at persuading the International Olympic Committee to recognise Palestine before the 1992 Barcelona Olympics.

FIFA facilitated the tour by agreeing to suspend a rule forbidding members from playing against unrecognised sides.

FORECAST FOR SUNDAY, MARCH 5, 1989

YOUR DAILY HOROSCOPE

— As Charted By The Carroll Righter Astrological Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Draw up a plan of action that will be a turning point financially. Break up boring cycles by searching out new forms of experience that are emotionally satisfying. Shape experiences to your needs.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) Gains are shared with others. Temptations and pleasures may upset your steady course. Cool down your enthusiasm.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) There is more under the surface than has been revealed. Disruptive attitudes prevail. There are winners in a disagreement.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) Moods may fly up and down today. Find a way to cope with small problems that are blown out of proportion. Problems can be solved.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to Jul. 21) Concentrate on family affairs that bring you pleasure. A jealous friend is not as strong a foe as you originally imagined.

LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21) The constant worry of a relationship breaking up can be a self-fulfilling prophecy. Stick to immediate concerns today and stay confident.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) Focus on your own pleasure, but include some warm companionship in the picture. Children bring out the best in you.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) The wheels of time are spinning but go nowhere. Following the dictates of

your feelings may place you where you do not want to be.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) An irresistible, but reckless, friend may have you doubting the wisdom of your pursuit. Find a substitute that will fit your lifestyle.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) This transitional period will mature. You get what you want if you leave hands off and allow fate to work for you.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) A recent, romantic contact seems too good to be true. Don't let dust collect on your social calendar. Tap into a new social set.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) Someone may refuse to believe you. Change could come swiftly. Solutions are difficult, but will work to your advantage in the end.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) A disturbing development can cloud the midday but will solve itself. Give others a chance to change their minds.

If Your Child Is Born Today He or she will be a communicator with mental skills and sympathetic feelings for others. Your son or daughter will be liberal, philosophical, and will have a stubborn streak that comes from a desire to be independent and free-thinking.

"The Stars impel; they do not compel." What you make of your life is largely up to you! © 1989, McNaught Synd.

THE BETTER HALF.

By Harris

HARRIS 3-7





Iranians demonstrate in Tehran demanding the death of Salman Rushdie, author of "The Satanic Verses"

'Satanic Verses' film — Who would dare?

NEW YORK (R) — Muslim protests and Iranian threats have helped turn "The Satanic Verses" into a Western bestseller — but Hollywood is wary of testing the novel's box office potential.

On Friday Iranian President Ali Khamenei added death threats against anyone who dared film the novel to an order for the killing of author Salman Rushdie.

"Who would dare?" said Hollywood agent Russell Galen.

"The movie industry is easily cowed. You don't look at the movies to find that kind of courage."

Rushdie has been in hiding and under police protection since Iranian clerics put a multi-million-dollar price on his head last month for blaspheming Islam in

the novel.

His agent Andrew Wylie, who secured the Indian-born British author a reported \$800,000 for English-language publishing rights to "The Satanic Verses," told Reuters Friday that the film rights were still available.

He refused comment on whether the movie industry was shunning the book.

The same day, the Iranian news agency IRNA quoted Khamenei as telling tens of thousands at Tehran's university campus:

"From now on, anyone who wants to write these things, or to make a film out of it, will wait for death threats from Muslims who have accepted the imam's 'fatwa' (religious decree) and want to

kill it out."

In the West the novel, which Rushdie describes a surrealistic depiction of the struggle between good and evil, is selling fast and its publishers said Sunday's New York Times would put it in second place in its U.S. bestseller list.

David Reiff, who edits the work of Philip Roth, Mario Vargas Llosa and Joseph Brodsky, said the book was intensely cinematic but it could not expect Hollywood's "usual treatment."

"Booksellers have been less than brave in terms of stocking the book. But movie people make the booksellers look like heroes," he said.

"I think no one will ever make the movie," said Galen, of the

Scott Meredith Literary Agency which sold the rights for Arthur C. Clarked to Hollywood.

"They have a history of shying away from subjects much less controversial."

Hollywood may have in mind the 1977 screening of a desert epic, "Mohammad, Messenger of God," starring Anthony Quinn.

Muslims wanted the film withdrawn. Screenings were halted temporarily and it disappeared from circulation.

Fundamentalist Christian protests disrupted screenings last year of Martin Scorsese's film "The Last Temptation of Christ."

Reiff said: "I think Hollywood was most intimidated by 'Last Temptation,' where there were bombings in France."

South Korean girls' suicide becomes political, social issue

SEOUL (AP) — The four sisters who took rat poison because they wanted their parents to lavish everything on their baby brother have shocked South Koreans into questioning the nation's entrenched male chauvinism and the plight of the poor.

The youngest of the four girls, who were aged six to 13, died immediately. The girls had wanted their impoverished parents to provide their three-year-old brother with the best education the family could afford.

Doctors said the three older sisters would recover from their poisoning attempt. The girls, who were found unconscious Feb. 27, remained in shock and only relatives were allowed to visit them in the hospital.

The eldest girl does not recognize anyone and keeps repeating, "I'm sorry, I'm sorry," the mother, Kim Ok-Sun, told reporters.

The youngest girl was scheduled to enter the first grade March 1. Her father, Yang Tae-Bun, placed beside her coffin the gifts he had given her for school: A red book bag, a notebook and pencils.

Cabinet ministers, politicians, schoolchildren, businessmen and housewives have flooded the Yang sisters with toys, dolls and more than \$15,000 in cash donations.

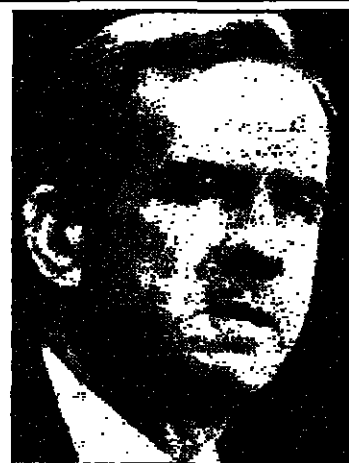
Newspaper editorials blamed public policies which, they said, do too little to aid the poor. The editorials also blamed South Korea's male-dominated social

structure which allows only limited opportunities for women.

The girls' mother told doctors that the oldest daughter, Soon-Mi, had confided to a friend recently: "If we're not around, perhaps mother and father can live better," with their brother.

Soon-Mi had left a suicide note — a page torn from a calendar — with the words: "Sorry, mom and pa. Don't worry about me. From your poor daughter."

Her father is a 44-year-old factory worker who supports the family on the equivalent of \$362 a month, about one-third of the average household income in Seoul and a beginning salary for many high school graduates. The mother does not work.



Robert McFarlane sentenced in Iran scandal

WASHINGTON (R) — The final chapter in the Iran-contra torment of Robert McFarlane, who tried to kill himself in remorse for his role in the scandal, has been written with a fine, a suspended jail sentence and a period of community service.

President Reagan's one-time national security adviser, who once flew to Iran with weapons and gifts of a cake and a Bible in hopes of freeing American hostages in Lebanon, had pleaded guilty months ago to four counts of misleading Congress in an effort to cover up aspects of Reagan White House Iran-contra operations.

On Friday he drew a suspended sentence and \$20,000 in fines — a step that helped clear the way for his eventual appearance as a prosecution witness in the current trial of his onetime White House deputy, Oliver North.

McFarlane was ordered to serve two years probation and 200 hours of community service. He could have received a maximum sentence of four years and up to \$400,000 in fines.

He had asked to receive his punishment before testifying in the trial of North, who faces much more serious charges stemming from secret efforts to sell arms to Iran and divert profits to Nicaragua's contra rebels in 1985-86.

Gorbachev faces Kremlin challenge

MOSCOW (R) — The Soviet leadership appeared split this weekend on the future of the country's farm system in a debate with strong ideological tones that could affect the fate of Mikhail Gorbachev's reforms.

In a two-day meeting Thursday and Friday, the Communist Party's ruling politburo failed to agree on a blueprint aimed at reshaping Soviet agriculture by turning it away from the strictly state-controlled structure of the past 60 years.

The politburo meeting, which opened on Gorbachev's 58th birthday, came after a week of intense political campaigning around the country by the Kremlin chief and other key figures.

An official report, in a bland phrase giving little clue to its import, said the meeting agreed that a project on farm reform presented for its approval "needs more work in the light of its discussion" by the 12-man leadership body.

The documents certainly contained detailed proposals aimed at breaking the domination of the collective and state farms forcibly created by Josef Stalin between 1929 and 1932 and opening up agriculture to a wide range of new forms.

The blueprint, based on ideas championed by Gorbachev over

the past year, had been expected to be approved by the politburo for presentation to a session of the party's policy-setting Central Committee within the next two weeks.

Now, according to the official report, the new version when completed will be debated by the Central Committee — a body where cautious and conservative figures remain in the majority.

No account of the politburo discussions was issued, but the ideological tone and the intensity of the debate — at the centre of which stand Gorbachev himself and his former number two Yegor Ligachev — emerged clearly over the past week.

"It was not for this that we established Soviet power," declared the 68-year-old Ligachev at a rally in Omsk, Siberia.

The object of Ligachev's ire was the suggestion that bankrupt collective and state farms, until now kept operating through vast subsidies, should be dissolved and handed over to peasants to work themselves.

Just seven days earlier, Gor-

bachev himself told a rally in the Ukrainian capital of Kiev that the solution of the country's food problem required that "stereotypes and dogmas" be swept away in agriculture and ideology.

"All effective forms," he declared in a reference to the land-leasing, family and cooperative farming he is increasingly promoting, "must be given the full right to a new life..."

"Do we really have to regard as the summit of socialist organization those chronically loss-making enterprises where in general sponging dominates and where wages bear no relation to the work put in?"

"To maintain them further at the expense of the state budget through credits they don't pay back not only is impossible, but it makes no sense."

The challenge from Ligachev, removed from his post as top ideologist and switched to head a politburo commission on agriculture last autumn, was the second over the past month.

In early February, he told a rally in Khar'kov in the Ukraine that only on the basis of the collective and state farm system, modernised and better organised, could the shelves of the country's food shops be filled.

Chances fade for Polish accord

WARSAW (R) — Solidarity said Friday its talks with the government had no chance of broad agreement and it was now aiming for only a limited package of political and economic reforms.

Spokesman Janusz Onyszkiewicz indicated that a crisis meeting Thursday between the Solidarity union's leader Lech Walesa and Interior Minister General Czeslaw Kiszczak had failed to give new impetus to the talks, now in their fourth week.

He was speaking after Solidarity negotiators reported further setbacks Friday during a day of talks with officials on reforms in local government, science, ecology and mining.

"We may as well come to the conclusion that some problems cannot be solved at this stage and give up attempts to solve them now," Onyszkiewicz told

reporters at a news conference.

"What we want is to work out a package of some agreements and see if it is a good compromise or not."

"This package does not necessarily need to solve all the problems," he added.

The talks, which began Feb. 6, have already agreed on terms for the legalisation of Solidarity and rural solidarity after a seven-year ban.

In return, Solidarity has agreed in principle to enter the communist-dominated parliament as a minority opposition in elections next summer.

However, the union has been seeking broad and detailed agreement on reforms that would start democratising every field of Polish life.

The talks made progress on issues like law reform, judicial independence and access by the opposition to the mass media.

But negotiations on economic reform, education and health have become bogged down, largely over demands to end the Communist Party's making nominations to 30,000 controlling positions in all branches of life.

Onyszkiewicz said a call by Kiszczak and Walesa after Thursday's meeting for the talks to speed up had so far had no effect. Their communiqué said talks should end this month so that reforms could be implemented quickly.

Alojzy Pietrzyk, Solidarity negotiator on the mining industry — Poland's main hard currency export earner — told reporters Friday's session on mining was deadlocked when authorities refused to agree to a five-day week or dismantle the massive bureaucracy controlling the industry.

COLUMN

Hollywood's first film debuts

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Movie buffs and preservationists celebrated Hollywood's first feature film with a showing of the long-lost movie in the barn where it was filmed 75 years ago. On hand for Tuesday night's screening of "The Squam Man" was Betty Lasky, daughter of Hollywood pioneer Jesse L. Lasky. He made the 90-minute melodrama about a British aristocrat's adventures in the United States with Cecil B. DeMille, and the two men went on to found Paramount Pictures.

"I first saw 'The Squam Man' five or six years ago," said Lasky. "It had been lost until then. Mr. DeMille hunted for it for years. Fund in a vault at MGM, the film starring Dustin Farnum now is in the Library of Congress, which helped arrange the special screening. The barn had been rented by Lasky and DeMille for \$75 and now has been transformed into the Hollywood Studio Museum. It's the only museum in Hollywood devoted to film history and contains such memorabilia as Ben Hur's chariot, Mary Pickford's makeup case and Mabel Normand's travelling trunk.

Hutton wins suit against MGM

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Oscar-winning actor Timothy Hutton, who sued MGM studios for allegedly deceiving him in 1983 about the demise of the motion picture "Roadshow," has been awarded \$9.75 million in damages from the studio. A jury found Friday that the studio committed fraud and breach of contract.

Hutton, who won an Academy Award for his role in the film "Ordinary People," said studio executives told him the picture, about a modern-day cattle drive, was being called off because director Richard Brooks had suffered a heart attack. Actually, MGM lost interest in the movie after a change of management, the actor said. The monthlong trial included testimony from other "Roadshow" actors, including Jack Nicholson. Nicholson resolved matters with MGM several years ago, the Los Angeles Times reported Sunday. MGM is now owned by Turner Broadcasting.

Riots erupt in Bogota after gunmen kill leftist leader

BOGOTA (R) — Riots broke out in the Colombian capital Friday after gunmen shot dead a leader of the leftist Patriotic Union (UP) Party, police and witnesses said.

Police used tear gas to disperse protesters who burnt tyres, built barricades of rocks and threw stones at police in poor areas of Bogota in protest at the killing of Jose Antequera.

He was shot dead by a group of gunmen while waiting for a flight at Bogota's El Dorado international airport, witnesses said.

Liberal Senator Ernesto Samper, a possible presidential candidate, was wounded and an unidentified traveller killed in cross-fire. Police said several people, including two little girls, were injured.

One gunman was killed and two were arrested. Large groups of police armed with rifles patrol-

led central Bogota late Friday seeking gunmen who escaped.

The motives for the shooting were not immediately known but right-wing death squads have killed many UP leaders.

Antequera's wife Maria Eugenia told reporters her husband had planned to visit the northern city Barranquilla to escape recent anonymous death threats.

Hundreds of motorists blew their horns in apparent protest in central Bogota when news of the shooting spread and people were rushing home, witnesses said.

The streets, normally packed at the start of the weekend, were almost deserted.

Colombian radio said President Virgilio Barco had called some ministers for consultations on the shooting.

The shooting occurred hours after talks between the Col-

ombian government and M-19 rebels began at a hotel in Mexico City.

The talks were suspended but a senior official left open the possibility discussions would resume.

"We will communicate by telephone tonight to discuss the possibility of resuming the dialogue," Rafael Pardo Rueda, Colombian presidential adviser and head of the three-member government delegation, told reporters.

Representatives of M-19 who earlier described the talks as a "pre-dialogue" that could lead to negotiations between the country's six rebel groups, the government and civilian population, were not available for comment.

M-19 was responsible for the 1985 Palace of Justice siege in Bogota in which more than 100 people were killed.

Politicians condemn, critics hail Profumo scandal film

LONDON (AP) — Christine Keeler, who rocked Harold Macmillan's government 26 years ago in a sensational sex-and-security scandal, was back on newspaper front pages Friday, pictured at the world premiere of the movie "Scandal," which retells the story.

As Keeler, 47, arrived Thursday night at London's Odeon cinema in a gown slit to the thigh, politicians condemned the movie for raking up the scandal.

But critics praised it as the most accomplished British commercial film in years, admirably casted and highly enjoyable.

Party girl, call-girl, fall-girl, Madonna, whore, and innocent were among epithets lavished on Keeler by the judges, politicians, journalists, businessmen and racketeers involved one way or another in the case as the scandal reached its climax in 1963.

The red-haired beauty had arrived in London five years before as an illegitimate 16-year-old. Her family lived in an old railroad car at Slough, 30 kilometres west of London.

With her fine features, dark eyes and superb figures, she got a job as a showgirl in a nightclub. There she met Dr. Stephen Ward, an osteopath with friends

in high places and communist sympathies.

One of his friends was Captain Eugene Ivanov, an assistant naval attaché at the Soviet embassy. Another was cabinet member John Profumo, the secretary of state for war.

Ward used to offer girls he picked up to friends for sex. He picked up Keeler and introduced her to Profumo.

She and Profumo, Ivanov and Ward were weekend guests at Cliveden, the vast country mansion of Lord and Lady Astor on the river Thames west of London. Keeler caught Profumo's eye swimming naked in the pool there.

The scandal centred on concerns that secrets may have gone to the Soviets through the links among the four people. When the scandal broke, Ivanov fled to Moscow and Ward was charged with living on proceeds from prostitution.

Ward denied it but was found guilty. He killed himself with drugs before he could be sentenced. Many said he died a scapegoat.

On March 22, 1963, Profumo denied in parliament that he had slept with Keeler. But amid growing evidence, he then admitted

he'd lied, saying he'd done so to spare his actress wife Valerie Hobson agony. He resigned his cabinet post June 5, 1963.

Keeler, whose picture was rarely off the front pages as the scandal grew, swapped high living for London's Holloway jail when she received a nine-month term for perjury in the trial of an ex-lover, west Indian nightclub singer "Lucky" Gordon.

Meanwhile, a furious row developed inside Macmillan's Conservative cabinet about the way the affair had been handled.

"A great party is not to be brought down by an alliance between a woman of easy virtue and a proved liar," thundered Viscount Hailsham, then-lord president of the Privy Council.

Threatened resignations failed to materialise, and a report by Lord Denning, then one of Britain's top judges, found no evidence that national security had been endangered.

But the Conservatives lost the 1964 general election, partly as a result of the scandal.

At Thursday night's premiere, Keeler saw herself played on screen by actress Joanna Whalley-Kilman, John Hurt plays Ward, and Ian McKellen, Profumo.

WASHINGTON (R) — The final chapter in the Iran-contra torment of Robert McFarlane, who tried to kill himself in remorse for his role in the scandal, has been written with a fine, a suspended jail sentence and a period of community service.

President Reagan's one-time national security adviser, who once flew to Iran with weapons and gifts of a cake and a Bible in hopes of freeing American hostages in Lebanon, had pleaded guilty months ago to four counts of misleading Congress in an effort to cover up aspects of Reagan White House Iran-contra operations.

On Friday he drew a suspended sentence and \$20,000 in fines — a step that helped clear the way for his eventual appearance as a prosecution witness in the current trial of his onetime White House deputy, Oliver North.

McFarlane was ordered to serve two years probation and 200 hours of community service. He could have received a maximum sentence of four years and up to \$400,000 in fines.

He had asked to receive his punishment before testifying in the trial of North, who faces much more serious charges stemming from secret efforts to sell arms to Iran and divert profits to Nicaragua's contra rebels in 1985-86.

Facing U.S. District Judge Aubrey Robinson, McFarlane said: "This episode in our history has resulted in enormous turmoil... and to the extent I contributed to that, I regret it. I tried to serve my country."

It was not yet known when the prosecution would call McFarlane in the North trial. A central issue is whether North, a retired marine officer and fired White House aide, was acting on his own or on orders in funnelling guns and money to the contras during a ban on official U.S. aid.

As national security adviser to President Ronald Reagan, McFarlane was involved as North's boss in the initial stages of the 1985-86 Iran-contra initiatives.

But he played a more direct role in the controversial secret Iran arms sales which came later. After he resigned in 1985, he and North flew to Iran in a plane carrying weapons, a cake baked in Israel, a six-gun and a Bible signed by Reagan to present to Iranian leaders as a sign of friendship before trying to negotiate the release of the hostages.

THE Sunday Crossword

Edited by Herb Ertmann

CALIFORNIA SONG SHEET

By Henry Saltzlander

ACROSS

- 1 To please
- 2 Fatherly
- 3 Enigma
- 4 Common abbr.
- 5 Less advised
- 6 Polish lancer
- 7 Despatch
- 8 Small idea
- 9 Watery swelling
- 10 Palm Springs
- 11 Summer?
- 12 Ring of color
- 13 "Solent"
- 14 Enigma
- 15 Enigma
- 16 Enigma
- 17 Enigma
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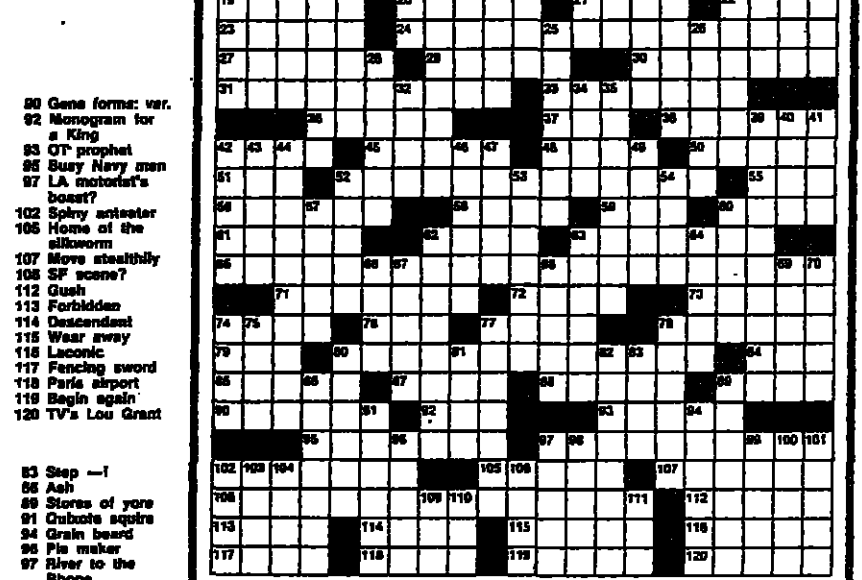
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Diagrams

19 X 19, By Harold B. Coombs

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Last Week's Cryptogram

1. The best things in life are free, but you must pay plenty to get to them.
2. Picking poetry must take the time to chain a thought in cracking rhyme.
3. Russia has the Iron Curtain, but China has a modern bamboo screen.